

PARABLES OF JESUS

THE PATCHED GARMENT AND THE WINESKINS - LUKE 5:27-39

A. Context of Luke 5: Jesus demonstrated His authority

1. Over physical illness and sin (17-26)

a. Jesus heals a paralyzed man by the power of God

- 1) Tom Constable, *Jesus did not perform miracles out of His divine nature. He laid those powers aside at the Incarnation. Rather He did His miracles in the power of God's Spirit who was on Him and in Him as a prophet.*
- 2) Tom Constable, *In Acts, Luke would stress that the same Spirit is on and in every believer today, and He is the source of our power as He was the source of Jesus' power.*

b. When Jesus saw *their faith* He told that man that his sins are forgiven (20)

- 1) This is the first use of the noun *faith* in the Gospel.
- 2) Jesus responds to the faith of the paralyzed man as well as the faith of the men who brought him.

c. Religious leaders called Jesus' statement, *blasphemies*. It would be blasphemy if Jesus were not God but the religious leaders refused to see Him for Who He truly is (21)

d. Jesus revealed His purpose for physical healing, to show that He has authority to forgive sins (22-24)

e. The man responded by faith immediately to Jesus' command (25)

- 1) How many blessings to we miss because of disobedience? (25)
- 2) Darrell Bock, *The ability of the paralyzed man to resume his walk of life is a picture of what Jesus does when he saves. His message is a liberating one.*

f. Those present were amazed by what they saw and glorified God.

- 1) Anyone could say your sins are forgiven but Jesus confirmed His authority by performing a miracle which was immediately evident.
- 2) Their *awe* was reverential fear. When a person performs the works of God by the power of God, glory goes to God.

2. Over an individual (27-32)

a. Jesus told Levi to follow Him (27), *After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me."*

- 1) Levi, or Matthew, was told by Jesus to follow Him.
- 2) In Luke, Jesus bestows grace on a variety of people, all of whom were rejected by others.
 - a) A demon possessed man was liberated from demonic control.
 - b) A leper from physical and ceremonial uncleanness
 - c) A paralyzed man from physical disabilities.
 - d) Now, a tax collector from social rejection.
 - 1] A tax collector took money from other Jews and gave it to the Roman occupiers.
 - 2] Many collected more than the should and kept the difference for themselves.

3) While at his tax booth, Jesus told Levi to follow Him.

b. Levi's response (28-29)

1) He left everything to follow Jesus (28), *And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.*

- a) The authority of Jesus reached to Levi's heart.
- b) This was an immediate and permanent break with his former life.
- c) This is a beautiful picture of what it means to receive Christ by faith, head and heart.

2) He made a great feast for Jesus and other of his friends at his house (29), *And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.*

- a) Levi was excited by his new direction and surely shared it with others at a feast he held for Jesus.
- b) Those in attendance had the same background as Levi.

- c. Conflict of old and new
- 1) Associations (30-32)
 - a) The Pharisees were disturbed that a religious leader would eat with sinners (30), *And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"*
 - 1) Pharisees must have been looking in horror as they saw who had been invited to a feast with Jesus.
 - 2) They judged people on the outside not what could happen on the inside.
 - 3) Their criticism of these people was a roundabout condemnation of Jesus since He was willing to share a meal with them.
 - b) Jesus declared His ministry purpose (31-32), *And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*
 - 1] The well don't need a physician, only the sick.
 - 2] He came to call sinners, not the righteous, to repentance.
 - 3] The self-righteous don't think they need repentance.
 - 4] Repentance is for those who acknowledge their need.
 - 5] Jesus had shown He has authority to forgive sins by healing the paralyzed man. Now, He declares His priority, to heal people of their sins.
 - 2) Actions (33-35)
 - a) The Pharisees stated that proper religious behavior meant fasting and prayer not feasting (33), *And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink."*
 - 1] The Pharisees contrasted the disciples of Jesus to the those of John the Baptist.
 - a] The disciples of Jesus were feasting with tax collectors and sinners.
 - b] The disciples of John fasted and prayed, note Matthew 9:14, *Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"*
 - 2] The Pharisees tried to discredit Jesus and His followers by depicting them as less spiritual than John the Baptist or themselves.
 - b) Jesus responded by comparing the time to a wedding which calls for joy (34-35), *And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."*
 - 1] Wedding guests don't fast while the bridegroom is with them.
 - a] A bridegrooms guests' do not fast while they are with the bridegroom because it is a joyous occasion. There will be time to fast later when the bridegroom is gone.
 - b] Jesus, the Bridegroom, came to claim His bride, Israel.
 - c] His followers were His friends who rejoicing in His presence.
 - 2] Jesus foretold His death by declaring that *days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them.*
 - a] This was one of Jesus' early predictions of His death.
 - b] His disciples would fast after His death and before His resurrection, and after His ascension.

B. Jesus told a parable (36a), *He also told them a parable:*

1. He had kingdom truth that His disciples needed to hear.
2. Such truth is only for those who follow the King of the Kingdom.
3. This parable underscores the difference between Judaism and Christianity, that faith in Messiah is for all people of all nations not just Israel.

- C. The parable was in two parts
1. The New Cloth (36b), ***No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.***
 - a. An unshrunk patch of cloth must not be put on an old garment because it will shrink and the tear will be worse.
 - b. Tom Constable, *He (Jesus) did not come to patch Judaism up but to inaugurate a new order. Had Israel accepted Jesus this new order would have been the messianic kingdom, but since the Jews rejected Him it became the church. Eventually it will become the kingdom.*
 2. The New Wineskins (37-39)
 - a. New wine is not put into old wineskins because as it ferments it will break the old skins, which can no longer expand, resulting in the loss of the wine and the skins (37-38), ***And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.***
 - 1) New wine must not be put into old wineskins because when it ferments it will break the old wineskins which have lost their elasticity.
 - 2) Christianity is an expansion from a national religion to a worldwide faith for all peoples.
 - 3) Thomas Constable, *Judaism simply could not contain what Jesus was bringing since it had become too rigid due to centuries of accumulated tradition.*
 - 4) Jesus' message can't be fit into any religious system; He stands above and alone.
 - c. Many choose to stay with what they have (39), ***And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'***
 - 1) Only Luke included this statement.
 - 2) Most people are comfortable with what they know so what is new is not readily accepted.
 - 3) Jewish religious leaders had no interest in Jesus Who overturns all man-made religious ideas and regulations.

<i>CONCLUSION</i>

- A. Jesus has authority over all because of Who He is, God the Son.
- B. He came to save those who need forgiveness not for those who think they can make it on their own.
- C. Repentance brings forgiveness but pride brings judgment.
- D. Christianity must spread to the whole world, overturning customs of man.