

3/16/14

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 31

TITLE: TRUTH OVER TRADITION

TEXT: LUKE 5:33-39

INTRODUCTION: (1) IT HAS BEEN SAID, THAT THE
FAMOUS LAST WORDS OF A DEAD CHURCH ARE,
"WE'VE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY BEFORE."

* NOW THOSE WORDS BECOME THE LAST WORDS
OF A CHURCH THAT IS STOOPED IN TRADITION
AND IN MAN MADE FORMULAS, AND PUTS
FORM AND TRADITION OVER TRUTH, OR
EQUATES TRADITION WITH TRUTH.

**** AND IT'S EASY FOR US TO GET** LOCKED INTO
THINGS WE THINK ARE TRUTH WHEN IN REALITY
THEY ARE TRADITION AND THEN PUT TRADITION
OVER TRUTH.

***** NOW THE TRUTHS OF GOD'S WORD NEVER** CHANGE, IN FACT GOD DOES NOT CHANGE, IT SAYS OF JESUS CHRIST IN HEBREWS 13:8 (QUOTE IT).

**** THEN IT SAYS OF THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY **IN MALACHI 3:6, "I AM THE LORD, I CHANGE NOT." IN JAMES 1:17 IT SAYS: (QUOTE IT)** THERE IS NO SHIFTING SHADOWS, GOD DOES NOT CHANGE LIKE SHIFTING SHADOWS.

(2) NOW WE CALL THIS ATTRIBUTE OF GOD, HIS IMMUTABILITY OR HIS CHANGELESSNESS. AND IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT TRUTH.

* FOR IF GOD CHANGES, THEN HE NOT ONLY CANNOT BE TRUSTED, BUT HE IS ALSO NOT GOD, FOR HE WOULD NOT BE PERFECT! HE DOES NOT GO BACKWARDS OR REGRESS.

** GOD DOES NOT CHANGE, HE IS ETERNALLY THE SAME AND CANNOT IMPROVE OR BETTER HIMSELF, HE IS ABSOLUTELY PERFECT IN EVERYTHING HE DOES FROM ETERNITY PAST TO ETERNITY FUTURE.

*** AND BECAUSE GOD DOES NOT CHANGE, HIS TRUTH DOES NOT CHANGE AND CANNOT BE IMPROVED OR UPDATED, PSALM 119:160 SAYS: (QUOTE IT). ALSO PSALM 19:7.

**** **SO GOD'S WORD, HIS REVELATION TO MAN IS PERFECT. AND WE HAVE PROBLEMS WHEN WE ADD OR TAKE AWAY FROM GOD'S TRUTH OR MAKE OUR IDEA EQUIVALENT TO HIS TRUTH.**

(3) WHEN WE PUT OUR TRADITIONS OR OPINIONS **OVER GOD'S TRUTH OR MAKE THEM EQUAL TO GOD'S TRUTH.**

* NOW THE PHARISEES, SCRIBES AND ELDERS OF **JESUS' DAY DID THIS. FOR THEY ADDED** REGULATION AFTER REGULATION AND **CEREMONY AFTER CEREMONY UNTIL GOD'S** WORD - **GOD'S TRUTH WAS UTTERLY HIDDEN** BEHIND A WALL OF TRADITION.

** AND THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN SCRIPTURE AND THE TRADITIONS BASED ON INTERPRETATIONS OF SCRIPTURE GRADUALLY BECAME LESS AND LESS DISTINCT, AND BEFORE LONG TRADITION WAS MORE FAMILIAR AND **MORE REVERED THAN GOD'S OWN WORD!**

*** **AND BY JESUS' DAY, THE TRADITION OF THE** ELDERS HAD FOR MANY YEARS SUPPLANTED SCRIPTURE AS THE SUPREME RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY IN THE MINDS OF JEWISH LEADERS AND OF MOST OF THE PEOPLE.

**** BECAUSE OF THAT, TRADITIONS LIKE FASTING TWICE A WEEK, CEREMONIAL RINSING LIKE WASHING YOUR HANDS BEFORE YOU EAT AND PRAYING IN VAIN REPETITIONS BECAME LAW THROUGH THE TRADITIONS OF THE ELDERS.

(4) WELL, IN OUR TEXT TODAY JESUS WILL CORRECT THE WRONG IDEAS OF PUTTING TRADITION OVER TRUTH BY ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT FASTING FROM THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN AND THE PHARISEES.

* AND JESUS WILL ANSWER THEIR QUESTION BY GIVING 3 ILLUSTRATIONS TO COMMUNICATE THAT THE FORMS OF OLD RITUALS, SUCH AS CEREMONIAL FASTING PRACTICED BY THE **PHARISEES AND JOHN'S DISCIPLES, WERE NOT** FIT FOR THE NEW WINE OF THE NEW COVENANT.

** IN FACT, IN HIS ILLUSTRATIONS, OUR LORD WAS SAYING THAT WHAT THE PHARISEES DID IN FASTING OR ANY OTHER RITUALS HAD NO PART WITH THE GOSPEL, HIS ETERNAL TRUTH HAS NOT CHANGED.

*** AND THAT NEW CLOTH DOES NOT WORK ON OLD MATERIAL IS ANALOGOUS TO TRYING TO PATCH NEW COVENANT TRUTH INTO OLD RITUAL FORMS AND TRADITIONS.

**** AND BASICALLY WHAT JESUS WILL DO IS **PUT "TRUTH OVER TRADITIONS" WHICH IS THE TITLE OF OUR MESSAGE TODAY.**

(5) AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT TWO POINTS: NO. 1 THE ISSUE OF JOHN'S DISCIPLES AND THE PHARISEES, WHY CHRIST'S DISCIPLES DID NOT FAST, V. 33; AND NO. 2 THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF WHY CHRIST'S DISCIPLES DID NOT FAST AND WHY THE OLD TRADITIONS THAT WERE NOT BUILT ON SCRIPTURE MUST BE PUT ASIDE, VV. 34-39.

*** AND WE'LL LOOK AT 3 ILLUSTRATIONS OF WHY TRUTH MUST BE PUT OVER TRADITION AS SUB POINTS UNDER OUR 2'D POINT.**

**** AND WITHOUT FURTHER INTRODUCTION, WE'LL LOOK AT OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, FOUND IN V. 33, THE ISSUE. LOOK AT V. 33 PLEASE.**

I. THE ISSUE, (READ V. 33)

A. NOW I BEGIN WITH A QUESTION IN V. 33, WHOM IS "THEY" TALKED ABOUT TO BEGIN WITH HERE?

* WELL, CONTEXTUALLY, IT IS THE PHARISEES AS WE GO BACK TO V. 30.

** HOWEVER, IN THE COMPANION PARALLEL TEXT TO OUR TEXT IN MATTHEW 9:14 IT SAYS, THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN ARE ASKING THIS QUESTION.

*** SO DO WE HAVE A CONTRADICTION?

**** WELL, NO, SCRIPTURE NEVER CONTRADICTS ITSELF. AND THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN MATTHEW AND LUKE, FOR IN MARK 2:18 IT SAYS BOTH THE PHARISEES AND JOHN **THE BAPTIST'S DISCIPLES APPROACHED JESUS.**

- MARK 2:18 - **JOHN'S DISCIPLES AND THE PHARISEES WERE FASTING; AND THEY CAME AND SAID TO HIM, "WHY DO JOHN'S DISCIPLES AND THE DISCIPLES OF THE PHARISEES FAST, BUT YOUR DISCIPLES DO NOT FAST?"**

1. NOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS INDIVIDUALS FROM BOTH GROUPS FIRED THE SAME QUESTION AT THE LORD JESUS.

* NOW WITH THAT TRUTH ESTABLISHED, BOTH GROUPS COME TO JESUS.

** NOW WE DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG AFTER **JESUS' ENCOUNTER WITH THE PHARISEES IN VV. 30-32 OF LUKE 5**, THAT THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER CAME TO HIM.

*** BUT IT APPEARS THAT BOTH GROUPS CAME SOON AFTER OR RIGHT AFTER AS WE LOOK AT MARK AND **MATTHEW'S** ACCOUNT.

**** FOR IN MARK 2:18-22 AND MATTHEW 9:14-17, WHERE WE FIND THE PARALLEL ACCOUNTS OF OUR TEXT, THEY ALSO FOLLOW THE CONVERSION OF MATTHEW AND JESUS EATING WITH SINNERS.

***** AND AS THE PHARISEES AND THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN SEE JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES FEASTING AT A BANQUET PUT ON BY **MATTHEW IN JESUS' HONOR, THEY WONDER** WHY ARE WE FASTING WHEN THEY ARE FEASTING? DO YOU SEE THAT NATURAL CONNECTION IN THE FLOW OF THIS CONTEXT?

- IN THEIR MINDS JESUS WAS NOT CONFORMING TO THE ACCEPTED RELIGIOUS STANDARDS OF THE DAY.

2. FOR UNDERSTAND THAT THE PHARISEES HAD ESTABLISHED A TRADITION THAT TWO DAYS OF FASTING A WEEK WERE SET APART TO THE LORD AS AN ACT OF PIETY, MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

* AND THIS IS WHY THE PHARISEE IN LUKE 18:12 SAID AND GLORIED IN THAT HE FASTED TWICE A WEEK AND GAVE TITHES OF ALL HE POSSESSED.

** AND MOST LIKELY THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER GOT LOCKED INTO THESE TRADITIONS. AND THIS FEAST PUT ON BY MATTHEW COULD HAVE BEEN A MONDAY OR A THURSDAY OR BY FOLLOWING JESUS AROUND AND SEEING THAT HE AND HIS DISCIPLES DID NOT FAST ON THOSE DAYS THEY BRING ABOUT THIS QUESTION.

*** FOR KEEP IN MIND THAT JOHN THE BAPTIZER WAS IN PRISON AT THIS TIME ACCORDING TO MATT. 4:12, AND THOSE OF HIS DISCIPLES WHO HAD NOT BEGUN TO FOLLOW JESUS TOTALLY WERE LEFT ONLY WITH THEIR TRADITIONAL JEWISH CEREMONIES AND PRACTICES.

**** BUT UNLIKE THE PHARISEES OUTSIDE OF **MATTHEW'S HOUSE IN VV. 29-32** OF THIS CHAPTER WHICH WE STUDIED LAST SUNDAY, THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN CAME TO JESUS DIRECTLY AND I BELIEVE SINCERELY SAYING, **"WHY DO WE AND THE PHARISEES FAST, BUT YOUR DISCIPLES DO NOT FAST?"**

3. AND IT APPEARS THIS QUESTION WAS SINCERE FROM THEM, **FOR JESUS DOESN'T** REBUKE THEM BUT ANSWERS THEIR QUESTION WITH 3 ILLUSTRATIONS, AND POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THEM, DOES NOT REBUKE THE PHARISEES HERE.

* NOW BEFORE WE GET INTO THE 3 ILLUSTRATIONS, NOTE, AND THIS HELPS TO SET THE CONTEXT HERE, THAT ALONG WITH ALMSGIVING AND CERTAIN PRESCRIBED PRAYERS, TWICE A WEEK FASTING WAS ONE OF THE 3 MAJOR EXPRESSIONS OF ORTHODOX JUDAISM **DURING JESUS' DAY. ONE OF THE BIG 3.**

** AND THE PHARISEES WOULD PARADE THESE PRACTICES IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC TO SHOW THEIR GREAT PIETY. (ILLUST. MATT. 6 – TO BE SEEN OF MEN, PRAYING, BLOWING THE TRUMPET IN GIVING, A SAD COUNTENANCE AND NOT WASHING THEIR FACES IN FASTING)

*** NOW THE PHARISEES DID NOT SEE RELIGION AS A MATTER OF HUMILITY, REPENTANCE OR FORGIVENESS, BUT AS A MATTER OF CEREMONY AND PROUD DISPLAY.

**** AND THEREFORE THE EXTERNAL RITUALS WHICH THEY PARADED AS BADGES OF GODLY RIGHTEOUSNESS ACTUALLY MARKED THEM AS UNGODLY HYPOCRITES, AS JESUS DECLARED IN MATTHEW 6.

4. **AND IT'S FROM THAT KIND OF TRADITION** AND THINKING THAT THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN HAD BEEN INFLUENCED SO THEY ASK JESUS THIS QUESTION, AND THAT WAS THE ISSUE.

* NOW AGAIN JESUS ANSWERS THEIR QUESTION BY GIVING THREE ILLUSTRATIONS, WHICH IS OUR **2'D POINT TODAY, THE ILLUSTRATIONS, AND** THE FIRST ONE IS FOUND IN VV. 34&35, LOOK AT V. 34 PLEASE TO BEGIN WITH.

II. THE ILLUSTRATIONS, (READ V. 34)

A. NOW AS YOU GO **BACK TO MATTHEW'S** PARALLEL TEXT IN MATTHEW 9:15, JESUS ASSOCIATES FASTING WITH MOURNING, PORTRAYING IT AS A SYMBOL OF SORROW NOT AS A SYMBOL OF SPIRITUALITY.

* AND JESUS USES THE ANALOGY OF A WEDDING FEAST HERE IN LUKE 5:34 TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT. FOR IN THOSE DAYS A WEDDING WOULD USUALLY LAST SEVEN DAYS AND THE BRIDEGROOM WOULD CHOOSE HIS BEST FRIENDS AS ATTENDANTS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FESTIVITIES.

** NOW GET THIS, A WEDDING CELEBRATION WAS NOT A TIME FOR THEM TO MOURN BUT TO REJOICE. WEDDINGS WERE NOT FUNERALS ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE LOOK AT MARRIAGE WITH JADED EYES AND SEE THEM BOTH AS DYING. (THEY HAVE A FRIEND GETTING MARRIED AND SAY WHEN'S **THE FUNERAL IN JEST.**)

*** YET IN A SENSE IN A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP YOU HAVE TO DIE TO SELF AND PUT YOUR **MATE'S NEEDS AHEAD OF YOUR OWN**, WHICH IS TRUE LOVE, AND THEN SELFISHNESS WHICH IS A SCOURGE TO MARRIAGE WILL NOT PREVAIL.

**** NOW GOING BACK TO THE THOUGHT OF V. 34, A WEDDING SHOULD BE A TIME OF REJOICING. AND THE ILLUSTRATION GOES THIS WAY, JESUS IS THE BRIDEGROOM AND HIS DISCIPLES ARE HIS ATTENDANTS.

1. AND WHILE HE IS WITH HIS DISCIPLES IN **PERSON THEY DON'T NEED TO MOURN OR BE IN SORROW,** EQUIVALENT TO FASTING, BUT **REJOICE. IT'S LUDICROUS TO MOURN WHILE THE BRIDEGROOM IS WITH HIS ATTENDANTS AND EVEN TO THE TIME THAT HE IS MARRIED FOR THE CELEBRATION LASTED A WEEK.**

* AND EVEN TODAY, HAVE YOU EVER GONE TO A WEDDING RECEPTION AND FASTED? NO! YOU ATE AND REJOICED AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE DAY.

** NOW, SOME PARENTS MAY LIKE THE IDEA OF FASTING FOR A WEDDING RECEPTION. FOR LOOK HOW MUCH MONEY THEY CAN SAVE IF THEIR DAUGHTER EVER GETS MARRIED AND THEY COULD CALL A FAST AT THE RECEPTION. SOME OF YOU KIND OF LIKE THAT **IDEA, WE'LL MAKE IT A SPIRITUAL WEDDING!!**

***** WE'LL HAVE A DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING THAT DAY!. NO. YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT, FOR IT WOULD BE A TIME OF REJOICING. AND THAT'S JESUS' ILLUSTRATION HERE.**

**** TO ADD TO THAT: WILLIAM HENRICKSON IN HIS COMMENTARY ON THIS SUBJECT SAID AND I **QUOTE: "BRIDEGROOM'S ATTENDANTS FASTING WHILE THE FEAST IS IN PROGRESS. HOW ABSURD!**

1. DISCIPLES OF THE LORD MOURNING WHILE THEIR MASTER IS PERFORMING WORKS OF MERCY AND WHILE WORDS OF LIFE AND BEAUTY ARE DROPPING FROM HIS LIPS, HOW **UTTERLY INCONGRUOUS!!" (END QUOTE)**

* **SO IT'S INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHRIST'S**
DISCIPLES TO MOURN AND FAST WHILE HE WAS
WITH THEM IN PERSON.

** AND THIS ILLUSTRATION IS ALSO
PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE BECAUSE OF ONE
GROUP OF THIS AUDIENCE TO WHOM JESUS IS
SPEAKING, THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN.

*** FOR JOHN HAD USED THE BRIDEGROOM AND
FRIEND OF THE BRIDEGROOM ILLUSTRATION TO
INTRODUCE JESUS IN JOHN 3:28-30, AND JOHN
SAID:

**** JOHN 3:28 - **"YOU YOURSELVES BEAR ME
WITNESS, THAT I SAID, 'I AM NOT THE CHRIST',
BUT, 'I HAVE BEEN SENT BEFORE HIM.'**

V. 29 - HE WHO HAS THE BRIDE IS THE
BRIDEGROOM; BUT THE FRIEND OF THE
BRIDEGROOM, WHO STANDS AND HEARS HIM,
REJOICES GREATLY BECAUSE OF THE
**BRIDEGROOM'S VOICE. AND SO THIS JOY OF
MINE HAS BEEN MADE FULL.**

V. 30 - HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST **DECREASE.**" SO JOHN WAS NOT THE BRIDEGROOM BUT THE FRIEND OF THE BRIDEGROOM AND REJOICED AND HAD JOY.

2. SO THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING.

* BUT LOOK AT V. 35 PLEASE WHERE JESUS PROCEEDED TO SPEAK OF A TIME WHEN FASTING WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIS DISCIPLES, NAMELY WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM IS TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM.

B. READ V. 35.

* NOW THE VERB "TAKEN AWAY" IS AN AORIST PASSIVE SUBJUNCTIVE IN THE GREEK AND SEEMS TO COMMUNICATE A NONVOLUNTARY SEPARATION. FOR THE VERB CAN CARRY THE IDEA OF SUDDEN REMOVAL, BEING SNATCHED AWAY VIOLENTLY.

*** AND IT APPEARS THAT JESUS WAS REFERRING TO HIS CRUCIFIXION, WHICH WOULD ABRUPTLY AND VIOLENTLY TAKE HIM AWAY FROM HIS DISCIPLES, HIS ATTENDANTS, A PART OF THE PLAN OF GOD.

**** AND ISAIAH 53:8 GIVES US A PROPHECY OF THIS, AND THE VERB USED IN LUKE 5:35 IS A SIMILAR VERB THAT IS USED IN THE SEPTUAGINT (A GREEK TRANSLATION OF THE O.T.) IN ISAIAH 53:8 (QUOTE IT).

1. SO THIS EVENT WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT BUT A PART OF THE SOVEREIGN PLAN OF GOD, AND WHEN THAT HAPPENED, IT WOULD BE A TIME OF FASTING.

* IN FACT, JESUS SPECIFICALLY WOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE WITH HIS DISCIPLES LATER IN JOHN 16:16-22 WARNING THEM OF HIS DEATH AND OF THEIR TEMPORARY GRIEF.

** FOR YOU SEE THEIR GRIEF WOULD NOT LAST FOR THEY WOULD WITNESS HIS VICTORY OVER DEATH AND AFTER HE ASCENDED WOULD RECEIVE THE COMFORTER, THE HOLY SPIRIT **WHO WOULD COMPLETE CHRIST'S WORK** THROUGH HIS CHURCH.

*** AND TODAY THE CHURCH IS NOT TO BE FASTING IN GRIEF AND SORROW AS A TRADITION, BUT LIVING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, VICTORIOUSLY AWAITING REUNION WITH THEIR BRIDEGROOM, AS WE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST LOOK FORWARD TO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB.

**** AND FASTING STILL SERVES A SPIRITUAL PURPOSE, BUT IS NOT A SIGN OF SORROW AND SHOULD NOT BE A VAIN REPETITION BUT A DISCIPLINE USED ALONG WITH PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL REFRESHING, SENSITIVITY, AND SERVICE TO OUR LORD, WHICH LEADS US TO ILLUSTRATION NO. 2, LOOK AT V. 36 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 36. NOW THE COMMON ELEMENT **THAT WE'LL SEE IN ALL THREE ILLUSTRATIONS** IS THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE OLD AND THE NEW. OF THE OLD TRADITIONS OF THE JEWS AND THE NEW TEACHINGS OF CHRIST, WHICH WERE NOT NEW BUT A FULFILLMENT OF WHAT WAS PROPHESED IN THE O.T.

* AND THESE TEACHINGS WERE NEW ONLY FROM THE STANDPOINT THAT THE RELIGIONISTS IN JUDAISM ADDED SO MANY TRADITIONS AND **FORMS TO THE LAW OF GOD, CHRIST'S** TEACHINGS JUST SEEMED NEW TO THEM, FOR JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 5:17 (QUOTE IT).

** NOW SPECIFICALLY IN V. 36, TO ILLUSTRATE THE TRUTH THAT JESUS' NEW WAY CANNOT BE CONNECTED TO, PATCHED INTO THE OLD TRADITIONS OF THE JEWS, JESUS GIVES THE PARABLE OF V. 36.

*** AND TO UNDERSTAND IT, WE MUST REALIZE THAT CLOTH OF THAT DAY WAS PRIMARILY WOOL OR LINEN, AND BOTH WOULD SHRINK WHEN WASHED.

**** NOW IF A PATCH OF NEW UNSHRUNK CLOTH IS SEWN ON AN OLD GARMENT WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

1. WELL, THE FIRST TIME THE GARMENT IS WASHED THE NEW PATCH WILL SHRINK, AND IT WILL PULL AWAY FROM THE OLD GARMENT, MAKING A WORSE TEAR THAN BEFORE.

* NEW CLOTH WAS UNSHRUNKEN CLOTH AND WHEN IT BECAME WET IT WOULD SHRINK AND IN THE PROCESS WOULD TEAR THE OLD CLOTH, IT WOULD PULL IT AWAY. SO THE TEAR WOULD BE WORSE THAN IT STARTED WITH WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THE PATCH.

** AGAIN IF A PATCH OF UNSHRUNK OR NEW WOOL IS PLACED ON A GARMENT THAT HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS, THE RESULT WILL BE THAT WHEN THE UNSHRUNK PIECE BECOMES WET AND SHRINKS, IT WILL PULL TO PIECES THE BORDERING CLOTH OF THE BADLY WORN GARMENT. THE PATCH WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF THE ORIGINAL TEAR WILL NOW PRODUCE AN EVEN BIGGER TEAR, PLUS IT WILL NOT MATCH WITH A FADED COLOR OR A DIFFERENT PATTERN.

*** WELL, JESUS DID NOT COME TO PATCH UP JUDAISM AND WHAT IT HAD BECOME THROUGH ITS TRADITIONS, BUT TO WEAVE A NEW SPIRITUAL CLOTH.

*** **CHRIST'S NEW AND INTERNAL GOSPEL OF FORGIVENESS AND CLEANSING CANNOT BE ATTACHED TO THE OLD AND EXTERNAL TRADITIONS OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AND RITUAL.**

**** THERE COULD BE NO MIXTURE OF OLD CLOTH AND NEW CLOTH, A PATCH JOB WOULD NOT GET THE JOB DONE, WHICH LEADS US TO **THE 3'D ILLUSTRATION, LOOK AT V. 37** PLEASE.

D. READ V. 37. NOW IN BIBLE TIMES, PEOPLE STORED WINE IN GOATSKINS OR ANIMAL SKINS SEWN AROUND THE EDGES TO FORM WATERTIGHT BAGS CALLED WINESKINS.

* NOW THOSE SKINS WERE USED FOR FERMENTATION OF WINE BECAUSE OF THEIR ELASTICITY. AND AS THE WINE FERMENTED, PRESSURE BUILT UP, STRETCHING THE WINESKIN.

** NOW A PREVIOUSLY USED OR STRETCHED WINESKIN LACKED ELASTICITY, SO IF YOU Poured NEW WINE INTO AN OLD WINESKIN, THE FERMENTATION PROCESS OF THE GASSES WOULD PUT PRESSURE ON THE WINESKIN, IT WOULD SWELL, AND IT WOULD BURST AND YOU WOULD LOSE THE WINE, IT WOULD POUR OUT, AND YOU WOULD LOSE THE USE OF THAT OLD WINESKIN.

*** SO THE THING TO DO WAS PUT NEW WINE INTO NEW OR FRESH WINESKINS AND BOTH ARE PRESERVED. LOOK AT V. 38 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 38.

* NOW AGAIN, OLD WINESKINS WOULD EVENTUALLY DRY OUT AND BECOME BRITTLE, AND IF SOMEONE THEN PUT NEW WINE INTO THEM, THEY WOULD CRACK AND BURST AND THERE WAS THE LOSS OF THE WINE AND THE WINESKIN, THUS NEW WINE MUST BE PUT INTO FRESH WINESKINS.

1. WELL, IN APPLICATION OF THIS REALITY, THE ONLY LIFE THAT CAN CONTAIN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE NEW LIFE GIVEN BY GOD WHEN A PERSON REPENTS OF SIN AND TRUSTS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR.

* AND THE FORMS OF THE OLD RITUALS, SUCH AS CEREMONIAL FASTING PRACTICED BY THE **PHARISEES AND JOHN'S DISCIPLES, WERE NOT** FIT FOR THE NEW WINE OF THE NEW COVENANT ERA.

** THE OLD TRADITIONS, THE OLD RITUALS HAD NO PART WITH THE GOSPEL.

*** AND IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT **JESUS' DOING AWAY WITH THE OLD AND** BRINGING IN THE NEW DID NOT REFER TO SETTING ASIDE THE DIVINE LAW AND USHERING IN GRACE.

**** **GOD'S LAW AND HIS GRACE HAVE ALWAYS** COEXISTED AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE. GOD HAS NOT CHANGED.

2. THE OLD WINESKINS WERE NOT THE TEACHINGS OF THE O.T. BUT THE RABBINICAL TRADITIONS THAT HAD COME TO OVERSHADOW, SUPERSEDE AND OFTEN CONTRADICT THE DIVINELY REVEALED TRUTHS OF THE O.T.

* THE OLD WINESKINS WERE CEREMONIAL RITUALISTIC FASTING, VAIN REPETITIONS IN PRAYER, GIVING THAT WAS DONE TO BE SEEN OF MEN, AND TAKING CARE OF THE OUTSIDE AND OBEYING TRADITIONS THAT BROUGHT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS RATHER THAN THE LAW OF GOD LEADING SOMEONE TO SEE HOW FAR THEY WERE FROM TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND DRIVING THEM TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.

** BELOVED THE GOSPEL DID NOT FIT INTO THE WINESKIN OF THE RIGID LEGALISTIC SYSTEM THAT HAD BECOME JEWISH RELIGION. THEY NEEDED A TOTALLY NEW WINESKIN TO BE Poured INTO.

*** THE OLD WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH, IT WAS NOT RIGHT. LOOK AT V. 39 PLEASE.

F. READ V. 39. NOW WHEN I WAS READING OVER V. 39 CASUALLY, IT DID NOT MAKE SENSE. IT SOUNDED LIKE JESUS WAS CONTRADICTING EVERYTHING HE HAS SAID UP TO THIS POINT, THAT THE OLD IS GOOD ENOUGH.

* HOWEVER, JESUS IS NOT ENDORSING THE OLD FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEM PERVERTED BY RELIGIONISTS OVER THE NEW, BUT COMMUNICATES A COMMON REALITY AMONG PEOPLE, AND THAT IS THOSE WHO CLING TO OLD WAYS OF THINKING AND LIVING DO NOT WANT ANY CHANGE IN THEIR HABIT OR WHAT THEY DO, THEY CLING TO THE OLD.

** IN THEIR MIND, THE OLD WAY IS BETTER!

*** AND V. 39 ACCORDING TO WILLIAM HENDRICKSON **"IS A COMMENTARY ON THE ULTRACONSERVATISM, THE INGRAINED AND INFLEXIBLE TRADITIONALISM OF THE PHARISEES AND THEIR FOLLOWERS. THEY WERE CONSTANTLY SAYING, THE OLD IS GOOD, SO THEY REJECTED THE NEW FRESH LIFE-IMPARTING TEACHING OF JESUS."**

**** SO JESUS IS REPEATING THEIR ARGUMENT, THE OLD IS GOOD ENOUGH, FROM THEIR FALLEN PERSPECTIVE.

1. AND THE POINT IS, MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT TASTED THE NEW LIKE THE PHARISEES WERE DETERMINED NEVER TO TRY IT, BECAUSE THEY IMAGINE WHAT THEY HAVE IS BETTER, BUT IT WAS NOT, IT WAS TRADITION OVER TRUTH.

* AND AS WE TAKE WHAT JESUS SAID HERE AND UNDERSTAND IT, IN THE FIRST CENTURY, NEW WINE, THAT IS FRESH GRAPE JUICE, WAS A RARE TREAT, ENJOYED FOR JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER HARVEST.

** PEOPLE FERMENTED GRAPE JUICE BECAUSE THERE WERE NO REFRIGERATORS AND FERMENTATION STRETCHED OUT THE TIME THAT SOMETHING COULD BE PRESERVED WITHOUT REFRIGERATION.

*** AND WATER WAS ALMOST ALWAYS ADDED TO GRAPE JUICE PRODUCING A TRIPLE ADVANTAGE OF STRETCHING THE SUPPLY, REDUCING ITS POTENCY WHEN FERMENTED, AND RENDERING WATER SAFE TO DRINK.

**** THEREFORE, WINE WAS NOT A DELICACY BUT A PRODUCT OF NECESSITY, AND YES WINE WAS FERMENTED, BUT NEW WINE, SWEET GRAPE JUICE WAS A RARE TREAT.

2. AND AS GRAPE JUICE IS SWEET, SO IS THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, GOD SAVES SINNERS NOT THROUGH RELIGION AND TRADITION, THE OLD, BUT BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE.

* **DON'T SAY THE OLD FALSE WAY IS GOOD**
ENOUGH, IT IS NOT.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) SOME
PEOPLE TRY TO PATCH JESUS ON, SOME PEOPLE
TRY TO BOTTLE HIM UP, AND SOME PEOPLE
WON'T TURN TO HIM AT ALL, THEY WANT THEIR
OLD WRONG BELIEF.

* HOWEVER A TRUE BELIEVER FORSAKES OLD
WRONG BELIEFS LIKE LEGALISM, TRYING TO
KEEP THE LAW TO JUSTIFY SELF AND TRUE
BELIEVERS FORSAKE RITUALISM.

** TRUE BELIEVERS FAST ONLY AS AN
EXPRESSION OF GENUINE SPIRITUAL CONCERN,
AND DO NOT TRY TO ATTACH THIS NEW LIFE IN
CHRIST TO THEIR OLD RITUAL OR RELIGION OR
TO TRY TO FIT SOMEHOW INTO THEIR OLD
PATTERNS.

*** A TRUE BELIEVER KNOWS THEY ARE INCOMPATIBLE AND UTTERLY CONTRARY. WE KNOW THAT WHAT IS BEGUN IN THE SPIRIT CANNOT BE COMPLETED IN THE FLESH - GALATIANS 3:3.

**** BELOVED, THE GENUINE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF A FORGIVEN AND CLEANSED HEART CANNOT BE ENHANCED OR SUPPLEMENTED BY EXTERNAL RELIGIOUS WORKS.

***** FREEDOM IN CHRIST HAS NO PART IN THE BONDAGE OF RITUALISM AND TRADITION TO BRING ABOUT JUSTIFICATION.

- AND LET ME TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER. RELIGIOUS RITUALS AND ROUTINES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DANGERS TO TRUE GODLINESS IN TRUE BELIEVERS. OUR WORSHIP NEEDS TO BE DONE FROM A HEART CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT.

(2) I MEAN GOING TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY WHICH IS VITAL BECOMES HYPOCRITICAL IF IT IS DONE APART FROM A GENUINE DESIRE TO WORSHIP AND GLORIFY GOD.

* AND SINGING A HYMN OR A CHORUS IS ONLY A PRETENSE OF WORSHIP IF IT DOES NOT COME FROM A HEART THAT SEEKS TO PRAISE THE LORD – MECHANICAL.

** SO LET US KEEP OUR FOCUS UPWARD AND RESPOND TO THE UNCHANGEABLENESS AND GREATNESS OF OUR LORD AND NOT PRAY, GIVE, SERVE OR WORSHIP RITUALLY, BUT FROM OUR **RELATIONSHIP TO HIM. LET'S NOT BECOME** MECHANICAL IN WHAT WE DO, BUT DOING WHAT WE DO AS UNTO THE LORD AND FOR HIS GLORY.

*** AND LET US NOT PUT TRADITION OVER **TRUTH, BUT TRUTH OVER TRADITION. (LET'S PRAY)**