

"New York? New England? or New Life!"

Luke 5:33-35

A. Some Comparisons between Matman and Matthew (5:17-32)

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| 1. Matman | 2. Matthew |
| Brought by friends (5:18) | Brings friends (5:29) |
| Seeks Jesus (5:18,19) | Jesus seeks (5:27) |
| Picks up his mat (5:25) | Leaves everything (5:28) |
| Goes home (5:25) | Takes Jesus home (5:29) |
| Praises God (5:25) | Fellowships with God (5:29) |
| Becomes ? | Becomes Disciple/Apostle
(6:15) |

B. Jesus' Conflict with the Pharisees (5:17 – 6:11)

1. Concerning **forgiveness** of **sins** (5:17-26)
2. Concerning **fellowship** with **sinners** (5:27-32)
3. Concerning **feasting** instead of **fasting** (5:33-39)

C. The Controversy in this Section (5:33)

1. The People
 - a. "**They**" (5:30,33; Matt 9:14; Mark 2:18)
 - b. Disciples of **John** (7:18,19,33; 11:1; John 1:35-40; 3:25-30; 4:1; Acts 18:24-19:7)
 - c. Disciples of **Pharisees** (Matt 3:7-12; 22:15-17)
 - d. Disciples of **Jesus** (5:10,11,28)
2. The Practice of Fasting
 - a. In the **Old** Testament (Lev 16:29-31; Judges 20:26; I Sam 7:6; II Chron 20:3,4; Ezra 8:21-23; Esther 4:3,16)

"This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work — whether native-born or an alien living among you — because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins. It is a sabbath of rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance." Leviticus 16:29-31

- b. In the **New** Testament (Acts 13:2,3; 14:23; Rom 14:5-9; Col 2:16,17, 20-23)

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Colossians 2:16,17

- c. By the **Pharisees**
 - 1) Twice a **week** (18:12)
 - 2) To **impress** others (Matt 6:16-18)

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 6:16-18

- d. But not by Jesus' **disciples**?

D. The Commentary by Jesus (5:34,35)

1. Guests don't **fast** at a **wedding** (Isa 54:5,6; 61:10; Hosea 2:14-23; Matt 25:1-13; Eph 5:22-33; Rev 19:7; 21:2)

For your Maker is your husband — the LORD Almighty is His name — the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth. The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit — a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. Isaiah 54:5,6

Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Revelation 19:7

- a. Not a time of **mourning** (Matt 9:15)
- b. Not as long as with the **Bridegroom** (Mk 2:19; John 3:29; 15:11; 17:13)

The bride belongs to the Bridegroom. The friend who attends the Bridegroom waits and listens for Him, and is full of joy when he hears the Bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.

John 3:29

2. Guys will **fast** when the **Bridegroom** is **taken** from them
(24:13-20, 41-43, 52; John 16:19,20; 20:11-13)

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask Him about this, so He said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me'? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy." John 16:19,20

E. Some Conclusions for Us

1. Realize that fasting today is a **personal** decision born of a **dependent** heart, not to **earn** brownie **points** with God.
(Rom 14:5,6; Col 2:16-23)

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. Romans 14:5,6

2. Recognize that if you are truly **walking** with Jesus, there will be times that you are **criticized** for having too much **fun**!
3. Remember that the mark of **walking** with Jesus is not **grief**, but **joy**! (Acts 8:8; 13:52; Gal 5:22)

Luke #55, 02.03.08 am RLS

Next Week: "Extreme Makeover...Jesus' Style!" Luke 5:36-39