

Remnant Life Church

June 3, 2018

What's New?

Matthew 9:14-17

- We talked last week about change
 - Not everyone is comfortable or welcomes change
 - Yet it is inevitable and often necessary
 - Today represents a distinct change for RLC although one that I believe we will adjust to very quickly
- So, you have embraced the idea of the change
 - You feel like this will work
 - Not too many negatives and in fact lots of new opportunities could present themselves
 - Just as we looked at change and how to respond to it, this morning we will do the same regarding the “newness” of something and why it too is important
- As you read the Scriptures, take note of how much God talks about “new”
 - **Isaiah 43:19** - *I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness for my people to come home. I will create rivers for them in the desert!*
 - **Jeremiah 31:31-34** - *"The day will come," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord. "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day," says the Lord. "I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their family, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will already know me," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness and will never again remember their sins."*
 - **Ezekiel 11:19-20** - *And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their hearts of stone and give them tender hearts instead, so they will obey my laws and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God.*
 - **Ezekiel 36:26** - *And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart.*
 - **Luke 22:20** - *After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This wine is the token of God's new covenant to save you—an agreement sealed with the blood I will pour out"*
 - **2 Cor 5:17** - *What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!*

- *Rev 21:5 - And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making all things new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."*

READ – Matthew 9:14-17

- “New” was at the very heart of Jesus’ ministry
 - He came to make us new
 - He gave us a new commandment that we love one another (*John 13:34*)
 - He gave us a new covenant that is written on our hearts (*2 Cor 3:3-6*)
 - He promises a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells (*2 Peter 3:13*)
 - He is also the High Priest of the New Covenant (*Heb 8:1*)
- What we just read in Matthew tells us that our life in Jesus is not about patching pieces together in the hope that they will hold
 - Our lives in Him are a brand-new creation – in mind, spirit, and body!
- In the original Greek the word “new” is used primarily in two different ways (according to context)
 - The first is the word “neos” (nay-os) used with respect to time; it is chronological; most recent
 - If you buy a used car you would still say, “I have a new car” because it is new to you
 - You are the latest in a succession of owners
 - The second word is “kainos” (kahee-NOS) and deals with age or origin; and is the opposite of old
 - When you say “I bought a brand-new car”; it is new qualitatively; nothing before it
 - It is this second meaning that Jesus is using when He speaks of new wine and new wineskins
- Jesus is asked why His disciples are not fasting, mourning about the sins of the people and offering sacrifices
 - Why would he choose this analogy to answer their question?
 - It goes back to what we said earlier, Jesus does not overhaul, He creates brand new (kahee-NOS)
- Jesus uses three brief illustrations
 1. The Wedding Feast (*9:15*)
 - a. You never celebrate with the couple and then expect them not to eat the wonderful food
 - b. Jesus said, I am the bridegroom and I am celebrating with the bride (those who believed in Him and would become the church)

2. The Old Garment (9:16)
 - a. If there is a tear and needs a patch you would not use a new piece of cloth
 - b. When it is washed it will shrink and pull away since the old garment has already shrunk

3. The Wine and the Wineskin (9:17)
 - a. Wine was a part of everyday life in biblical times
 - But the wine most often used was an unfermented grape extract that was mixed with water
 - It could become fermented but that was a separate usage
 - b. To become fermented wine, it is sewn into an animal skin and over time fermentation takes place
 - i. In the process of fermentation gasses are released
 - ii. As the gas is formed it stretches the container
 - iii. If it is in an old, stretched out container it will eventually rupture because it cannot stretch anymore
 - iv. A new wineskin is pliable and can stretch with the expansion of the gas
 - c. In each of these analogies Jesus is emphasizing the importance of “new”

So what does this mean for us today, beginning something new

- Jesus is also teaching, knowing why the question was asked, that you cannot live under both the law and grace
 - *I Cor 15:56-57 - The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - Again, Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matt 5:17)
 - As we move forward as a church, new people will come, things will change...
 - We will live under grace in this place, not the law
 - The law says things must remain the same; that it is more important what we do than why we do it
 - Grace says the love of God and our love for one another is at the foundation of our purpose

- When Jesus taught it was always in love, not in judgement or condemnation
 - When Jesus confronted people, even the Pharisees, it was first with a desire to only see restoration
 - Only when they continued to ignore His teaching did He say woe to them
 - As new people come we will love them first, love them second, and love them third
 - Our responsibility is not to point out people’s faults, correct them, or “set them straight”
 - It is to point them to Jesus!

- Jesus promised them, and each of us today, a new life in Him
 - What does mean?

- Changing old habits for new
 - Stopping those things that allow fear and doubt to come into your life
 - Used to love to watch the news, (Cronkite, Rather, David Brinkley, Chet Huntley) now I refuse
 - Used to love reading the Sunday paper – no more
 - News (main-stream media) is no longer about reporting events
 - It is about supporting and promoting a political agenda and attempting to dictate what we think
 - It is only ever the negative
 - We must choose what we are going to embrace into our minds, our hearts, and our spirits
 - If you feed only on the negative fear will consume you
- So, what should our focus be?
- The Apostle Paul writes perhaps the most powerful list of what our thoughts should be focused on
 - **Phil 4:8-9** - *...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*
 - Dwelling on the things of God brings peace, dwelling on the things of the world brings fear and doubt

Embracing the new can be as challenging as embracing change

- But both can be done, to the glory of God, when we focus our hearts, our minds, our affections, and our energy on the things of the Lord.
- We can be the old wineskin, or we can be the new
- Let's determine to be the new and easily stretch with whatever God decides to pour into us as we begin this new season in the life of our church.