



Sermon: I Want To Be Brand New

Preached 12/26 /21; Cloverdale Baptist Church

Matthew 9:16 – 17

¹⁶ No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

¹⁷ Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

Most of the commentaries I reviewed on this indicate Jesus is making a distinction between the religious practices in the Old Testament based upon works versus the New Testament based upon faith.

Today I want to take a different perspective.

Perhaps we can ask the question, what does Jesus mean by new wine and new cloth?

- Is it the new covenant?
- Is it the Holy Spirit representing new life and a new and living way?
- What is the new wine skin? Is it us as believers and showing us that we cannot try and add the Holy Spirit without first having a new container/new life?

So, the wineskin is the transformed life, not the wine itself. The wineskins are us.

- Therefore, the new wine is the new covenant and the new wineskins are vessels willing to enter into this new covenant with Jesus, prepared to receive the Holy Spirit. He is making new wineskins, prepared hearts that enter into this new covenant and receive the Holy Spirit.

Why can't I use the old wine skins?

If you put new wine into old wine bottles that have already been stretched, when the new wine expands during fermentation, it will burst the old bottles. So instead, you must place new wine into new bottles, this way both the containers and the wine are saved. Under the other condition, you would lose both the old bottle and the wine.

The gases produced by fermenting wine will stretch old, stretched-out wineskins beyond their breaking point. New wine is for new wineskins that can accommodate expansion.

As I looked at this concept and perspective, I began to realize that for most of my Christian life, I had been doing this wrong. Through my salvation experience and relationship with God, I had been living a changed life, but not necessarily a new life. There is a difference.



So, change is involved in getting something new, but not all change results in something brand new.

You can buy a used car which is different or better than the car you now drive. That is change. But it is still not a new car.

You can change it, you can paint it, you can even spray it with new car smell, but while changed, it can never be brand new. There is nothing wrong with good change, but the new is better.

Therein lies my challenge as a Christian. I was living a changed life. Nothing wrong with a changed life. I was better than I ever was before.

- I didn't sin as quickly as I used to, but eventually I might still sin.
- I didn't get mad as quickly as I used to, but if you wait a while, I could still blow up.
- I was living by faith, but at times doubt and fear would creep in.
- But I was okay with my Christian life because I knew and you could clearly see that I was better, so much better than ever before.

The problem was even though I was changed, there was still some left-over used stuff still lingering around. I thought dealing with the old stuff was part of the normal Christian life. So, I just tried to suppress the old thoughts and the old anger, and the old hurt. I was changed and while it didn't control me like in the past, I still had to deal with that old stuff.

But now as I read the parable, Jesus is saying, you can't be very effective for very long, trying to maintain the new Spirit and life in Christ in the same old mindset. Sooner or later, you will blow up and all the holiness and goodness from the Lord is wasted in that moment.

I was deceived because of my success. The old wineskin is actually successful and effective for a while, but eventually, it will surely burst and fail. So to was my Christian walk.

Why is the New Better?

- Because I can do in the new mind what I never was able to do in the old mind.
- Because all of the old things are gone; I don't have to deal with them anymore when I'm new.
- Because while the old will eventually fail, the new just keeps humming along toward victory.
- You don't want to start your new journey with that old mileage. Be brand new.
- Because that's how God operates, He makes things new. The Bible says:
 - Sing unto the Lord a new song
 - God is doing a new thing
 - A new Spirit
 - A new heart
 - New clothes
 - New wine, new wine skins
 - New mercies every day
 - New tomb
 - New tongues
 - New Commandment



- New lump
- New creature
- Walk in newness of life
- New man
- New heaven and new earth
- New Jerusalem
- Rev 21:5 – Behold, I make all things new

I don't want to be just changed any more.....I want to be brand new! I don't want to just be better; I want to be brand new.

How does this happen? How can I be better than changed? How can I be brand new?

Recognize the need to change. Repent – change your mind about doing it the old way and holding on to the old thoughts; place your hope in the Word of God; let the Holy Spirit guide you and keep you on track.

Well now, we just need to find a good word to believe in and trust him on. How about this one:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Plant this word in your mind, and by faith in His word....be brand new. Every day, starting now, let go of the past, and start each day fresh and brand new...in your heart/mind. Watch God work through you and allow you to do things you were never able to do before.

Some people settle for a used car because they can save money that way. The new you has already been paid for. You just have to claim it.

Proverbs 23:7

⁷For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: