

A QUESTION ABOUT FASTING
(Matthew 9:14-17)

- I. The QUESTION (Matt. 9:14)
 - A. It was addressed to JESUS
 - B. It was asked by the DISCIPLES OF JOHN (cf. Mark 2:18; Lk. 5:33)
 - 1. It may have been rhetorical to CRITICIZE
 - 2. It may have been sincere to LEARN
 - C. It asked WHY they and the Pharisees FASTED and Jesus' disciples DID NOT
 - 1. OT required ONE annual fast
 - 2. Post-Exile Jews had added SEVERAL other fasts
 - 3. Pharisees' TRADITION scheduled fasts TWICE WEEKLY
- II. The ANSWER (Matt. 9:15)
 - A. One does not fast at a WEDDING CELEBRATION
 - 1. Jesus is the BRIDEGROOM
 - 2. His disciples are His ATTENDANTS
 - B. One fasts when in MOURNING
 - 1. There is coming a day when He will be "TAKEN AWAY"
 - 2. Then His DISCIPLES will FAST

III. The ILLUSTRATIONS (Matt. 9:16-17)

A. PATCHING torn cloth (9:16)

1. Cannot use NEW cloth to patch an OLD garment
2. It would SHRINK and cause GREATER DAMAGE

B. REUSING old wine skins (9:17)

1. Cannot refill them with NEW WINE
2. SWELLING caused by fermentation would BURST the skin

IV. The APPLICATION

A. Jesus did NOT come to SET ASIDE the Law and INTRODUCE grace

1. He came to FULFILL the LAW
2. Salvation has ALWAYS BEEN by GRACE

B. Jesus came to DISMANTLE their TRADITIONS

1. His message was not CONNECTED to them
2. His message could not be CONTAINED by them
3. His message replaced their BONDAGE to RITUAL with the OBEDIENCE of FAITH