

# The Kingdom Concept of New Wine

For quite a long time now teachers in the church have been referring to new wine as new revelation from God. They have also used new wineskins to represent having a heart suitable for the new revelation to be deposited into. This is a spiritual or Kingdom concept rather than a direct teaching from scripture.

The concept comes mainly from Jesus' parable that refers to both these bibulous items. Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount this parable. Here it is in Luke:

**Luke 5:33-39** (NKJV) – *Then they said to Him, “Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink?” And He said to them, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days.” Then He spoke a parable to them: “No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one;<sup>1</sup> otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.<sup>2</sup> And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately<sup>3</sup> desires new; for he says, ‘The old is better.’”<sup>4</sup>*

In context, Jesus and his disciples are feasting at Matthew the tax collector's home, and at the same time offending the religious leaders. Their first offense was that Jesus' entourage were eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners – not at all kosher. Their second offense was that there was too much partying going on and not enough fasting and praying.

Hmmm. Sounds like the old system couldn't cope with the Kingdom of God that Jesus brought with him – i.e. the new system that was replacing the old system.

Jesus gave a Kingdom reply to the objectors on both occasions and then went straight into a parable. This allegorical homely was to enlarge their understanding of what he was exemplifying by his 'offensive' actions. His parable is about the 'old' and 'new' being incompatible. He gave two examples of his day where the mixing of 2 items wasn't done to avoid incompatibility problems.

In Luke's account it is recorded that the parable has an addendum – people prefer old wine. In the context of the struggle between the 'old' and the 'new' in which the parable was given as a highlight, I believe that what Jesus was saying was that in the culture of his day the desire was for the 'old', not the 'new'. That is, they preferred legalistic Judaism to the freedom of Kingdom sonship. They preferred the bondage of Hagar (Mt Sinai) to the freedom of Sarah (Jerusalem),<sup>5</sup> because of the tyranny of the unknown, or else-wise, the comfort of the familiar.

Bringing this into a Kingdom perspective – which of course this clash was all about – those in the old system do not want to progress to the new system that's being put into place.

Agriculturally, the new wine represents the new product. This is essential for the continuance of supply, because one cannot continue drinking old wine *ad infinitum*, as new wine must mature to become old wine to keep up the supply. The new product each season is called productivity. Imbibing the supply of old wine, while at the same time, not producing new wine because it's not liked, is near-sighted and is non-productive.

In the Kingdom there must constantly be the 'new' because the Kingdom advances. God is always doing

1 – NU-Text reads “No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old one”.

2 – NU-Text omits “and both are preserved”, which the other Gospels include.

3 – NU-Text omits “immediately”.

4 – NU-Text reads “good”.

5 – Galatians 4:24-26

new things and releasing new knowledge/revelation, while at the same time staying the same. The reason for this apparent incongruity is that Father has the plans for his creation and he has all the knowledge as well. Over time, his plan unfolds and new revelation is given to accompany it.

*“That’s it, that’s it for now. There’s more to come. But let’s take the step forward and I’ll release the rest to you at a later time. That may sound strange to you, but it’s part of my parenting of you. I release what you need to know now, and the rest will come in due course.”*<sup>6</sup>

Regarding wine skins, in ancient times they were the portable container for the wine. Just like us being a vessel for the Spirit of the Living God, we're also a receptacle of the *rhema*, the word from God. Our receptacle is our heart<sup>7</sup> – a part of our soul, not our coronary organ.

According to the parable Jesus gave about the sower of the word of God, not everyone has a good receptacle to house knowledge from the Kingdom<sup>8</sup>. The same is to be said for those who are not prepared to receive new revelation and the new moves of God. They can't 'hold it', but reject it because they don't want to progress for some reason or other. The widespread initial resistance to the Charismatic Renewal is a recent example of this.

The result of putting new wine in an old wineskin is what could be called in modern terms, 'catastrophic failure'. Interpreting that in light of the attacks of the religious people against Jesus' way of doing things we can say:

**New Kingdom revelation/knowledge will not remain in the hearts of those who refuse it because of their contentment with the old revelation/knowledge.**

**THEREFORE** – We need to have a heart that wants new wine. This means a desire to “move with the cloud”<sup>9</sup> as our King leads us forward, maturing us to become the remnant Bride. Only by doing this can we enter into everything that will be revealed in these last of the Last Days.

Actually, the allegory of putting new wine into old wineskins is equivalent to mixture. AND, in the Kingdom, mixture is not the go.

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6 – CCOP Message (6-3-2016) “How We Are to Work to See the Spirit Released in Australia”

([canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/how-we-are-to-work-to-see-the-spirit-released-in-australia-6-3-2016.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/how-we-are-to-work-to-see-the-spirit-released-in-australia-6-3-2016.pdf))

7 – e.g. The parable of the sower (Matthew 13:19)

8 – **IMPORTANT**: What is sown is knowledge (*logos*) of the Kingdom, not the gospel message of salvation. (Matthew 13:18)

9 – Exodus 13:21