

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE BRIDEGROOM'S PRESENCE CHANGES EVERYTHING!"

Big Idea: The presence of our Bridegroom changes everything about us.

DATE: October 8, 2017

SPEAKER: Frank/Joe

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 2:18-22

Discuss

1. Consider what the followers of Jesus were experiencing as the "wedding guests" of the bridegroom (think back on what has happened prior to this episode in Mark's gospel). Jesus says to those who ask about his disciples not fasting that they "cannot fast." (v. 19) Fasting is literally unthinkable, *undoable*, in the presence of Jesus. Why would this have been true?
2. At the same time, Jesus does not condemn fasting, and in fact says that there will come a time when his disciples will fast. (v. 20) In the Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew, Jesus even gave instructions about fasting (see Matthew 6:16-18). Why might John's disciples have been fasting, and for what reasons should we fast today?
3. Jesus further explains the radical change his coming has caused by giving two illustrations. (vv. 21-22) Jesus and his gospel are so powerful that they cannot be merely tacked onto, or poured into, old traditions, rituals, and ways of living. (If time allows, read Acts 10:9-28 for another example of the radical change that resulted from the coming of Jesus.) What traditions or lifestyles are we prone to try and keep today, instead of welcoming the complete and utter transformation that Jesus commands for all of his followers? In other words, where do we try and patch just a little bit of Jesus onto the various ways we have always done things?
4. Since the time when Jesus was taken up into heaven, Christians have experienced the "now and not yet" of his kingdom. One glorious day, though, all sin, all suffering, all need for fasting will end. Read Rev. 19:6-9 and spend some time anticipating the joys of heaven. As the Puritan Richard Baxter said, "That which will make us most happy when we possess it, will make us most joyful when we meditate upon it." How can meditating on heaven change the way we live on earth?

Pray

Praise Jesus as the perfect Bridegroom.

Confess the ways in which you have tried to pour the "new wine" of God's grace into the "old wineskins" to which you stubbornly cling.

Thank God for his extravagant grace that changes everything.

Ask God to keep your heart fixed on him and what awaits you in eternity, when you will be welcomed with joy to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Bethany Christian Services

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Becky Chinchen serving with
Amani Ya Juu