

New Wineskins

Welcome: First Sunday of the New Year!!

Review:

- Last week we talked about our “21 Day Breakthrough Fast”
- It’s not too late to get on board with that (see last week’s Facebook Live video)

Now we are moving forward, continuing to see what Jesus has to say about getting our breakthrough...

Personal Sharing:

- A few weeks ago, we did some downsizing, cleaning out closets
- Getting rid of some old clothes...
- It is amazing how many black tee-shirts I can accumulate

In doing so, I ran across these (display old jeans)

- These were part of my old live music days
- Skin tight ripped jeans, long hair, cowboy hat....

I remember very well, my Mom coming to the Indian Trail VFW to watch us play and I was wearing these jeans...

- She had a fit!!!

If you notice, these jeans are a little smaller than what I wear now!!

- I think these are size 32...
- And size 36 is a little snug these days!!!

Here’s the point...

- I know longer fit into these jeans
- Trust me...if I tried to squeeze into these they would bust!!!
- It’s not just the size... but it’s just not who I am anymore

It’s like this great analogy Jesus uses in The Bible:

Matthew 9:16-17

16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. 17 **Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled,** and the wineskins are ruined. But **they put new wine into new wineskins,** and both are preserved.”

Jesus used this natural example, **but trust me**, there is a Spiritual revelation here...

New wine:

- Freshly squeezed grapes, add sugar and yeast
- Once mixed was placed in wineskins...
- New wine had to have room to breathe and expand (fermentation)
- These new wineskins would allow that breathing and expansion
- But after the initial use, they lost their elasticity
- If you tried to re-use them (put new wine in old wine skins)
- They would burst and spill out all the wine
- **And nobody wanted to waste their new wine**

Now, why is this important to you?

Isaiah 43:19

19 **Behold, I will do a new thing.**

Now it shall spring forth;

Shall you not know it?

I will even make a road in the wilderness

And rivers in the desert.

Because, here we are again...First Sunday of a New Year...

- Expecting breakthroughs
- Expecting God to do a “New Thing” in your life

Maybe what we should be asking for today is some

- **“New Wine”**

May I remind you today that Jesus first miracle was turning water into wine?

- Not just wine...but the best wine
- Took something ordinary and transformed it into extraordinary

Is that the kind of “New Thing” you need in your life for 2018?

- A miraculous change in circumstance
- A total transformation in your finances or relationships
- A promotion or new job that could only come from God
- Miracle healing in your body or mind
- Overcoming bondage and addiction

Is that the “New Thing” you’re looking for, that you’re expecting?

- Can you shout,
- “Pour out some New Wine”!!

Now here comes the dilemma....

- There are messages similar to this preached all over the world on the first Sunday of every New Year...
- But all too often people find themselves no better off at the end of the year than before that message was preached...

Why?

- We expect God to change the circumstances and the situations in our life...
- When in reality what needs to change
- Is us!!!

God will pour out “New Wine”... God will do a New Thing...

- That’s His part
- But God’s not going to waste His blessings....
- He’s not pouring into those old wineskins...

You want the New Blessing, the New Thing, the New Wine....

- You better be presenting Him with a “New Wineskin”
- That’s your part!!

I’ve said this before:

- The “Old you” cannot contain the “New Thing” God wants to do in your life

Think about it:

Jesus told Peter and Andrew, “lay down you nets” (Matt. 4:18-22)

- I want to pour out some new wine!!
- But you have to change...
- You can no longer be fisherman, but instead, fishers of men

Saul’s conversion on the Damascus Road: (Acts 9)

- He could no longer be a Pharisee, hunting down Christians...
- There had to be a change....
- Not only did Jesus change his direction...
- He changed his name (His identity) From Saul to Paul

The woman about to be stoned (Caught in adultery John 8)

- Jesus didn't deny her sin...
- He simply made the accusers look in a mirror
- Jesus told the woman "I won't condemn you"
- He told her "Go and sin no more"
- But if you want a "New Thing" you have to change
- If you want the "New Wine"
- There must be a "New Wineskin"

I believe that there is a life that God has planned for you...

- An Abundant life (John 10:10)

But there is also a life that you are willing to settle for

- Of just enough...scraping by

And the only thing separating those two is **your willingness to change yourself...**

Do you want the "New Wine", the "New Thing", and the "Abundant Life?"
Or are you satisfied where you are?

If you don't believe that Jesus will leave you in your present condition because of your unwillingness to change...

Go read about the "**Rich Young Ruler**" (Matthew 19)

- He asked what do I need to do to receive my "New Thing"
- Jesus identified an area of his life that needed to change
- But he refused to change...
- Instead of leaving with "New Wine" he left "sorrowful"

What areas of your life need to change in order to receive your "New Thing"

- Come under submission to God
- Get in line with God's Word

Are you believing for a promotion or new job in 2018?

- Are you setting the bar for all other employees
- Are you at work every day, on time, everyday
- Are you doing all that is expected from you, plus more?

Are you believing to overcome some struggles and addictions in 2018?

- Are you participating in the 21 day fast?
- Giving those strongholds over to God
- Have you thrown the cigarettes in the trash can?
- Did you pour the alcohol down the sink?

Are you believing for a financial Breakthrough in 2018?

- Where do you stand with tithing?
- Are you willing to change how you approach financial stewardship

Are you believing that God is going to bless and grow this church in 2018?

- Are you volunteering?
- Are you attending services regularly
- Are you promoting the vision of the church?
- Are you inviting people to church?
- What are you willing to do now that you haven't done in the past?

Altar Call