

# LUKE 5:33-39 *Jesus and Fasting*

## INTRODUCTION

Weddings are a lot of fun. They're happy times of flowers, and food, and friends, and celebrating the marriage of a bride and groom. God was doing something new and exciting through His Son Jesus. It was not a time to be sad and somber, as the Pharisees and other religious leaders were suggesting. God had come to earth in Jesus Christ, and it was time to celebrate.

## DISCUSSION

What do you like best about weddings?

## EXPLANATION

- What is fasting, and why did people do it? *Fasting was not eating for a set period of time in order to spend focused time with God.*
- Why do you think the Pharisees questioned Jesus about why His disciples weren't fasting?
- Who is the bridegroom in v 34, and who are the wedding guests? *Jesus is the groom; His disciples are the guests.*
- What did Jesus mean in v 34? *As people should be happy at a wedding, so should they be happy and celebrated while Jesus was with them.*
- What does Jesus mean when He talked about old and new clothes and old and new wineskins? *God was reaching people in a new way through Jesus. People couldn't come to God the old way anymore. They would have to give up the old way and accept the new.*

## APPLICATION

The Pharisees and religious leaders like the old way of doing things. In fact, they made their way of doing things-with all it's man-made rules and regulations- more important than following God. They forgot that the purpose of things like fasting and prayer was to spend time with God, not to make other people think they were holy. Jesus, God's Son, was right in front of them, but they couldn't see that He was God's new way for people to come to Him. What things do you do sometimes to make other people think you are religious or close to God? Do you sometimes do things to try and get God to love you more? (you can't)

## Memory VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”