

Questions for Gospel Harmony #57

Matthew 9.10-17; Mark 2.15-22; Luke 5.29-39

1. What is the other name for Levi? Why did he give this feast? Who came to this feast? Why would these people have been present? How did the scribes and Pharisees respond when they say this, and why questions did they ask the disciples? In Jesus' response, why did he compare himself to a physician? What Old Testament passage does Jesus quote? Why does He challenge the Pharisees to "go and learn what this means"? (Matthew 9.10-13; Mark 2.15-17; Luke 5.29-32)
2. Why did the disciples of John and the Pharisees wonder that Jesus' disciples were not fasting? What is the meaning of Jesus' explanation regarding the "bridegroom" and "his friends"? How does this explanation answer the charge made against His disciples? (Matthew 9.14-15; Mark 2.18-20; Luke 5.33-35)
3. In this parable, do the various features represent or symbolize some spiritual concept? If so, what is the symbolism? Or is the parable simply a general illustration of spiritual truth? If so, what is the truth being illustrated? Explain the statement: "And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'" What is the meaning of this statement within the parable? (Matthew 9.16-17; Mark 2.21-22; Luke 5.36-39)

Matthew 9.10-17; Mark 2.15-22; Luke 5.29-39

Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and sinners and others who came and sat down with them; for there were many, and they followed Him. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners the Pharisees complained against His disciples and said, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were fasting. Then they came and said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast often and make prayers, but Your disciples do not fast, but Yours eat and drink?" And Jesus said to them, "Can you make the friends the friends of the bridegroom mourn and fast as long as the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days. Then He spoke a parable to them: No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth from a new garment on an old garment; or else the new piece, the patch, pulls away from the old, and the tear is made worse, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old. Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.' "