

# Embracing a New Wine skin 2

Connect Church Life Group Notes

30.3.2025

## Mark 2:1-22

### **Sometimes God's promises seem to be delayed.**

#### **Habakkuk 2:3 NIV**

"For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

A few years ago the Lord gave Connect Church a promise from Isaiah 43:18-19.

**1. Discuss amongst the group if they think that this promise has been delayed and why.**

### **Waiting time is not wasted time.**

God is always working, even when we are unaware of it. And just as in the verse we read from Habakkuk 2:3, sometime God's promises tarry.

We are living in society at a time where everything is done quickly. Quick transport, fast food, overnight deliveries and instant answers to your questions from Google and AI.

**2. Discuss with the group if they think that we are growing impatient and forgetting the art of waiting?**

The truth is that important things in life do not come quickly.

- Learning a new skill or hobby
- Getting an education
- Building a house
- Establishing a successful business

If you stop and think about it, most of the good things in life don't actually come quickly. There is a season of preparation that comes before the acquiring of that skill, hobby, education or property. But this season of preparation prepares us for our future.

There is a saying, that we overestimate what can be done in one year but underestimate what can be done in five. Those of us that have renovated our own home or built a house, discovered the hard way that it usually takes a lot longer than we expected.

And yet we expect God to move quickly, when in reality there is a season of preparation that proceeds the fulfilment of a promise.

Waiting time is not wasted time. We just have to hold onto the promises of God, by faith, and allow God to prepare our hearts and lives for the fulfilment of His promises and purposes. For though they tarry, they will surely come to pass - if we don't give up!

### **Preparation for a new Wineskin**

In Mark 2:1-22, Jesus gives the illustration of old and new wine skins. Of course He is talking about the old way of doing things as compared to the new way of doing things.

In a sense, Jesus was saying that the new wine, the new thing that God wants to bring into our church world, needs a new wine skin to contain it.

**3. Discuss with the group if God could be trying to tell us that the new thing that He wants to do amongst us will not be able to be catered for by the old ways that we have been used to in the past.**

- What worked in the past may not work in the future
- The new wine skin is more about people than programs and structure.

### **Despised people, sinners and sick**

**4. Have the group give some illustrations of people in our time that could fit into the three categories in the title above.**

- Despised people in our society
- Sinners (this should cover pretty well everyone really)
- The sick - physically and mentally

In Mark chapter 2 we see Jesus spending time with tax collectors (despised people), sinners and those in need of healing. It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick, Jesus said in Mark 2:17.

**4. If God were to bring new people amongst us that fell into the categories that Jesus mentions above, would our present ministries be able to cater for them?**

And would we accept them?

### **Close with prayer**

- Pray that God will prepare pastor Mike and the leadership team to lead Connect Church into God's new thing.
- Pray that God will prepare our hearts and soften us for the new wine.
- Pray that God will bring amongst us the new people that will be required to operate some of these new ministries.