

**I. Jesus was controversial, but amazing and astonishing. His actions (healing, exorcisms) and his teaching about the kingdom (Mark 1:15)**

- A. His own disciples trusted him, but didn't understand him most of the time.
  - 1. How often did he need to correct them, wondering at their lack of understanding.
  - 2. It wasn't until after Ascension and Pentecost that they grasped things (Jn.2:22)
- B. *BTW...When we cease to be impressed with Jesus, we cease to be a witness.*

**II. The reason for the controversy is that he is God in human nature and flesh. Astonishing!!**

- A. Luke has shown this through several accounts. Ch.4-5
  - 1. Defeating Satan, throwing demons out, healing everybody, forgiving sins!
- B. Last week we saw that he called Levi/Matthew—a *tax collector of all people!*
  - 1. *God chooses and justifies repentant sinners based solely on His decision to save sinners. 1 Tim.1:15*
- C. Now, up close with religious traditions, he re-focuses religious tradition on himself...

**III. Pharisees are criticizing Jesus himself this time...Lk.5:33-39**

**A. Pharisees: Why do your disciples not follow our traditions? 33**

- 1. *What did the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees have in common?*
- 2. They were both *Old Covenant forms of spirituality*—not New Covenant. Old Testament traditions (traditions become laws without meaning to)
  - a) Disciples of John the Baptist. (the last OT prophet)
    - (1) Fast often and pray.
  - b) Disciples of the Pharisees (specialists in OT piety)
    - (1) Fast often (Mondays and Thursdays usually).
      - (a) It was a major aspect of visible piety at the time.
    - (2) *This means that they viewed fasting as a personal badge of honor and their faith was in their own devotion. (Lk.18:9-14)*
  - c) *And **visible piety** was crucial to Pharisaical spirituality.*
    - (1) *Which is why Jesus told his friends not to do their devotional exercises (praying, fasting, giving) in visible ways. (Matt.6)*
  - d) *Jesus warned (Mt.15:1-9) against letting traditions override the actual word of God.*

**B. Jesus: Because God is doing an entirely new thing. 34-39.**

- 1. He is bringing an entirely new covenant, which fulfills the old and inaugurates a new era.
  - a) Not a patch job....36
    - (1) “His mission involved a radical break with common religious practices. Jesus neither affirms nor denies the value of fasting, and he does not mention prayer at all; rather, he teaches that he has not come merely to add devotional routines to those already practiced, for what he brings is not a patch but a whole new garment.” (Leifeld and Pao, EBC Revised, *Luke-Acts* Vol.10 p.127)
  - b) Not an old message...37-38
    - (1) “Jesus’ teaching is like fermenting wine that seems almost to have inherent vigor and cannot be contained within an old rigid system.” (ibid)
  - c) Not popular with some people...(39)
    - (1) This is why the synagogue at Nazareth tried to kill Jesus when he said he was fulfilling Isa.61:1-2. He was bringing a new reality to bear.
    - (2) This is what Jesus was telling Nicodemus in John 3. You need to be re-birthed from above (again) by the Spirit.
      - (a) *Regeneration cannot come from or be contained in the Mosaic Covenant! (See Rom.10:4 and all of Paul’s letters)*

**C. Jesus: And it is about ME...**

**1. The Ultimate Bridegroom... (Eph.5:25-26, 29-32)**

- a) This is about the new and different thing that God is doing in and through the Bridegroom. (fulfilling the Law, not extending it)
- b) The Bridegroom is Jesus Christ and his Bride is the living church.  
(1) (Jn.3:29; 2Cor.11:2; Rev.19:7-8, 21:2, 9)

**2. Who will be taken away...(35)**

- a) This is the Cross, being dropped as a hint some 3 years before it happens.
- b) The Lord knew this would be the plan, but his friends didn't understand yet.

**IV. What is the New Thing? The Gospel. The message of the Cross...**

**A. He is our identity. We now have his name... Eph.5:25-27; 32**

1. We have his name, his inheritance, his destiny.
2. Our true identity is not sourced in us, but in Him...he is the Bridegroom
3. *Like a deserted and destitute young woman, rescued by a millionaire who adores her...*
4. *A Christian is not the product of their past (as the world says), but the product of their future. We have resurrection life and destiny...*

**B. He is our holiness. We are now in his righteousness. 1 Cor.1:30; 2 Cor.5:21**

1. Our holiness is not grounded in our spiritual activities, but in His sacrifice.
2. *Spiritual disciplines are good, but they do not create or define our relationship with the Lord. Beware of three dangers...*

**C. He is the source of our transformation. We now can grow in His Grace. Rom.12:1-2**

1. *Lean into the spiritual transformation...By all means live in good traditions and disciplines but remember—Our traditions and disciplines do not transform us...he does.*
2. The purpose of all spiritual disciplines in the Christian life must be voluntary, secret, and oriented toward prayer. To deepen our understanding of the Lord and his purposes. Not to get him to forgive.
3. *Traditions are to the gospel what clothing is to people. The life of the person is what matters. The clothing must not be canonized. Matt.15*
4. *We love our traditions, and they are not necessarily wrong, in fact, they can be helpful...*

**V. A little pastoral advice...**

**A. If you are a pre-Christian,**

1. Do not think that being a Christian means acting religious.
  - a) It is about a personal covenant relationship with God in Christ.
  - b) It starts with repentant faith in prayer and proceeds in grace.

**B. If you are a Christian...**

1. Do not think that God *likes you less* if you are not good at all of your best intentions in spiritual growth.