

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***  
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

***Standing on the Promises of God -***

**1 John 4:4**

“...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

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**Passage - Luke 5:30-39**

**30** The Pharisees and their scribes began **grumbling** at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?"

**“Grumbling”** – *“Murmuring or complaining about”*

Corrected translation - **“Why are y’all eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?”**

**31** And Jesus answered and said to them, **“It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.**

Interpretive translation – **“The ones who presume they are healthy have no need of a physician, but the ones who are sick have need.”**

**32** **“I have not come to call the righteous [presume to be righteous] but sinners to repentance.”**

- Only the one who knows he is sick will go to the Physician [Jesus Christ].
- Only the one who knows he is not righteous will turn to Jesus Christ in faith for the righteousness He provides at faith alone in Christ alone.

The Pharisees and their theological students, the scribes, considered themselves *healthy* and *righteous*; therefore, they will never recognize their spiritual need of Jesus Christ as their Physician.

**The Lord slams these self-righteous types with a bit of irony!**

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***In review -***

**Categories of religious people –**

- *Unbelievers* who believe they can get to heaven by being a good person through a system of works or religious observances
  - They attend church. They even give and sing and volunteer their time.
  - They are involved in a system of works to get to heaven.
- *Christian* – saved by grace through faith but not living by grace through faith. Instead, they are working to be righteous even though declared righteous at the point of salvation. They miss the true motivation that comes from executing the unique spiritual life by means of the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit.

**Some points on religious attackers –**

1. Jesus Christ did not come to call those who presumed they were righteous to repentance [*or a change of mind*]. Why? They have locked in negative volition. They have no willingness to change.

2. Religious people presume they are righteous because they are occupied with themselves and what they are doing for God. This includes the unbeliever as well as the Christian.
3. This occupation produces self-righteousness derived from a system of works [*which fuels the old sin nature*].
4. Self-righteousness is a spiritual illness.
5. The self-righteous person never recognizes his need to repent or change his mind about his legalistic or ritual system.

**POD – The believer who is following the Lord can expect to be attacked by religious people.**

**POD – Jesus Christ always defends His students from religious attack, providing the believer allows the Lord to defend him. The moment you defend yourself is the moment you take away the defense of the Lord. YOU NEED NOT DEFEND YOURSELF!**

**POD – The grace oriented student leaves his attackers in the hands of the Supreme Court of heaven for Jesus Christ to deal with.**

**How do you leave these attackers in the Supreme Court of Heaven?**

- Through prayer
- Through the faith rest drill
  - Recalling previously learned scriptures and doctrines
- By being occupied with Christ
- Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit, including manifesting the character of Christ in your life.

***These things become Problem Enduring Devices!***

- Enduring these attacks produces genuine humility.

**Attack No. 2 - Spirituality based on a system of works and asceticism (extreme self-denial)**

**33 And they** [Pharisees and scribes] **said to Him,**

**Mark 2:18**

**John's disciples** and the **Pharisees** were fasting; **and they came** and **said** to Him,

**“and they came”** - εἶργχομαι- “kept coming” - motivated from the lust patterns of their souls

**“said”** – λέγω – “kept saying”

**“ . . . why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?”**

Corrected translation – **“Why are the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fasting, but Your disciples are not fasting?”**

*It always disturbs religious people when you are enjoying the freedom that you have in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

"The disciples of John often fast and offer prayers, the disciples of the Pharisees also do the same, but Yours eat and drink."

Corrected translation – **"The disciples of John are fasting often and offering prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees, but Your own are eating and drinking."**

1. Religious people are always impressed with what they are doing for God (whether believers or unbelievers) - *in this case, those attending prayer meeting and fasting.*
2. Their modus operandi is comparing the volume of their works to those of the grace oriented believers.
3. This comparison is a subconscious search for happiness.

**The Lord uses the wedding analogy -**

**34** And Jesus said to them, "You cannot make the attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you?"

This particular response is meant for John's disciples to understand – remember that John was the herald of Israel's promised king. He was to prepare the way for the coming Messiah – so, in view of John's message, should his disciples be fasting or dining?

*Fasting is not permitted at the wedding banquet – rather, it is a time for rejoicing, for dining, eating, and drinking!*

**35** "But *the* days will come; and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days."

**POD – There is a right time and a right place for everything in the Christian way of life. (It is up to the believer to discern those times in the privacy of soul.)**

**POD – Religious types will always attempt to pervert the liberties and grace of the supernatural spiritual life.**

**Calling of the disciples -**

**John 1:35-37**

Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,

**36** and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

**37** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Note also vv. 38-40

**Non-religious Crowd**

Andrew

Peter

John

**Religious Crowd**

Pharisees and scribes

John the Baptist's disciples

**Andrew and John transitioned to the Lord's ministry at the right time and the right place.**

**Those who made the transition were enjoying themselves. Those who did not were not enjoying themselves!**

**POD – Those who do not recognize a transition in ministries keep themselves in the dark from hearing the current doctrine they need to hear.**

*Those who fail to transition, when directed by the Lord, are stymied in spiritual growth!*

**POD – The believer who has availed himself of current doctrine must be patient and pray for those who have not [availed themselves of current doctrine].**

*They must avoid theological controversies and debates that lead to schisms.*

**36** And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.

**Parables** are something that is communicated for those with spiritual discernment because they understand current doctrine.

**Parables** are understood by those with spiritual discernment while being disguised to all others.

**37** "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined.

**38** "But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.

**39** "And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough.'"

**Three things are mutually exclusive –**

1. Fasting and dining **with** great food and wine
  - Who promoted fasting while Jesus Christ, the bridegroom, was present at Levi's party?
  - The Pharisees and scribes did, along with John's disciples who had fallen into that trap
2. A new garment **and** old piece of cloth
3. New wine **and** old wineskins

Jesus Christ is communicating that His [new] doctrines do not mix with the Pharisees and their [old] doctrine.

**POD – The Lord Jesus Christ dumbfounds those who attack His own.**

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*