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5-11-2021
NEW WINESKINS

Jesus spoke a parable in Matthew 9:16-17, ***“No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.”*** The “bottles” were not glass bottles as we think of bottles today. They were wineskins, made out of the hide of a goat or a cow.

New wineskins would stretch with the aging of the wine, whereas old wineskins had already been stretched and were brittle, and would burst if they put wine in them that was new because of the process of aging.

Jesus was speaking of us being the wineskin. Our old “wineskin” represents who we are before salvation, already molded, stretched, hard, and brittle. He was saying it would take a new wineskin for us to be able to hold the things of the “Spirit” that cause us to grow. Like a snake that sheds its skin when it grows, we must shed the things that hinder us from growing also.

What things? Sin, pride, lack of faith and anything contrary to expanding our life in Christ. Sometimes it means shedding people from our lives that hinder us. The parable also talks about putting the old and new together. This never works, because the new will pull against the old and the rent (tear) will always happen.

This also speaks of uniting or binding together a believer with a non-believer. It won't work! The non-believer has no room to grow spiritually, and the relationship will tear when trials come. It is wisdom to refrain from entering into business or any other relationship as believers with someone that is a non-believer. I have seen this happen and it will only bring problems down the road. We are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. (II Corinthians 6:14.) This verse goes on to say that it is communing darkness with light. It doesn't work!

The new must join the new in order for it to expand and not be ripped apart my friends. Are you training your children and grandchildren these facts before they make the mistake that will bring heartache? A worn, old piece of old fabric that rips easily will never yield the service that a new piece will yield. On the other hand, in our lives when you unite the new (born again spiritually) with the new it will bring strength and the ability to grow together spiritually. We must train ourselves and our children and grandchildren to look for the right “new wineskin” that God has for them.