

QUESTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

"THE JOY OF GRACE"

MARK 2:18-22

JANUARY 27, 2019

1. Why did John's disciples and the Pharisees ask Jesus about fasting? What appears to be their motive?
2. How did the fasting question demonstrate that the Pharisees were in opposition to God's saving purposes?
3. What spiritual truth did Jesus respond with? What is His main point when He uses the illustration of the wedding celebration?
4. What did Jesus mean when He says the bridegroom will be taken away from them? Should we fast? When? Why?
5. What did Jesus mean with the patch of cloth illustration? What is the "old garment" that Jesus is referring to?
6. What is legalism? How can you discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness and yet avoid legalism?
7. What are some examples of how we fail to believe and live out God's grace on a daily basis? What should be our motive for obeying God?
8. How does Jesus' new wine illustration describe the exclusivity of the gospel? How is the legalism of Judaism incompatible with the message of salvation by grace?
9. What is the basis of true lasting joy? Do you have a living relationship with Jesus Christ? Is it evident by joy and gratitude in your life?

Main point: Jesus uses three illustrations to contrast dead, legalistic, mournful religious form with the living liberty of the joy of grace that is found in His presence.

"Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you." John 16:21-22