

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
MATTHEW 9.14-17
JUNE 19, 2019

INTRODUCTION: [READ MATTHEW 9.14-17]

1. In context, Jesus and the disciples are at the house of Matthew.
 - a) He was “*dining*” (Mark 2.15), “*at the table*” (Matt. 9.10) enjoying a “*great feast*” (Luke 5.29) with “*a great number of tax collectors and others*” (Luke 5.29).
 - b) The “*scribes and the Pharisees complained*” (Luke 5.30) “*and said to His disciples*” (Matt. 9.11), “*He eats and drinks*” (Mark 2.16).
2. From the contextual flow, other disciples come and ask about eating and drinking, but this time the concern was with fasting.

I. THERE IS A QUESTION

- A. Who is asking the question?
 1. **MATTHEW 9.14:** “*Then the disciples of John came to Him*”
 - a) John the Baptist had one purpose: Prepare the way for Jesus. (Luke 2.15-17)
 - b) John the Baptist testified of Jesus. (John 1.15,29,30,25; 3.25-28)
 2. **MARK 2.18:** “*The disciples of John and of the Pharisees*”
 - a) The Pharisees were the strictest religious sect of the Jews. (Acts 22.3)
 - b) The disciples were Pharisees in training.
- B. The question that is asked.
 1. **MATTHEW 9.14:** “*Why do we and the Pharisees fast often...*” (Luke 18.12)
 2. Fasting is refraining from eating and drinking. (Luke 5.33)
 - a) To fast is to afflict your soul showing humility to God. (Isa. 58.3; Matt. 6.16-18)
 - b) We fast to express humility and contrition for sin. (Lev. 16.29-32)
 - c) We fast to express sorrow over hardship. (Ps. 35.11-14).
 - d) Fasting is usually paired with prayer. (Luke 5.33)
 3. The disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees asked why Jesus and His disciples did not express sorrow through fasting and prayer.

II. THERE IS AN ANSWER

- A. Who is answering the question?
 1. **MATTHEW 9.15:** “*And Jesus said to them*”
 2. This is the One who knew His future. (John 13.33; 14.1-4; 16.6)
- B. What is the answer that is given?
 1. **MATTHEW 9.15:** “*Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?*”
 - a) The bridegroom is the husband to be whose best man prepares him. (John 3.28,29)
 - b) Notice that “mourn” is used synonymously with “fast” (Matt. 9.15; Mark 2.19)
 2. **MATTHEW 9.15:** “*But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.*”

III. THERE IS AN ILLUSTRATION

- A. The parable of the new and old cloth. (Matt. 9.16; Luke 5.36)
 1. **MATTHEW 9.16:** “*the patch pulls away...and the tear is made worse*”
 2. **LUKE 5.36:** “*also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old.*”
- B. The parable of the new wine and old wineskins. (Matt. 9.17; Luke 5.37,38)