The New Cloth on an Old Garment

Bible Story and Context: Matthew 9:9-17

The Story

Some followers of John the Baptist came to Jesus. They had a question about fasting. To fast means to go without food for a time to seek God. They often fasted. Why did Jesus' followers not do the same?

Jesus asked them to think about a wedding. The groom is the man who is getting married. His friends are glad to be with him. They do not mourn while he is there. In the same way, Jesus' followers could be glad while He was with them. Later, He would be taken from them. Then they would fast.

Next, Jesus spoke about a hole in an old coat. What if someone covered it with a patch of new cloth? The new cloth could shrink and pull on the old cloth. The hole would tear even more!

The patch helped explain His answer. People had their own ideas about how His followers should act. But they needed to learn what His coming meant. Jesus had not come just to fit into their old habits.

Jesus did not say that fasting was wrong. He taught them to see why this was a time for joy. We can bring our questions to Him too. As we read His words, we can listen and learn.

Read From the Bible - KJV

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.

Matthew 9:16 (KJV)

Talk About It

- Why were Jesus' friends glad to be with Him?
- What would happen if the new patch shrank?
- What can you do when you have a question about Jesus?

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