

Feasting and Fasting at the Dawn of a New Day

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 5:33-39



Big Idea

Jesus has inaugurated something wonderfully new, but it is not yet complete. Therefore, we both feast and fast until He comes again.

(1) Feasting unto Repentance (vv. 29-32)

The meal Jesus shares with these people does not represent wholesale, unprincipled acceptance or tolerance of their sin. No! He's feasting with them as a way of leading them to repentance! Jesus has this way of both accepting the sinner and convicting them, of both calling us in and calling us out. He loves us in our sin, make no mistake about that: "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). But He loves us too much to leave us there.

(2) Feasting with the Bridegroom (vv. 33-35)

The words of the prophets held out hope for the latter days, for the end-time when God Himself would come yet again for His adulterous wife and re-covenant Himself to her in marriage. At that time mirth, joy, celebration, feasting will commence once more! And Jesus is saying: "All of that is arriving in Me! Therefore, when I am present, fasting is rendered utterly irrational and inconceivable. It would be an offense for my disciples to fast at a time of feasting!"

(3) Feasting in the New Day (vv. 36-39)

Jesus proceeds to give these objectors even deeper rationale for His feasting with sinners and tax collectors by drawing their attention to the new day that is dawning in Him. The two pictures He gives remind us that Jesus isn't just repairing the old structures, the old forms, of Judaism. He is moving us forward in the plan of redemption into something deeper, fuller, ultimate, spiritual—something new. To be sure the new is connected to the old but what Jesus is emphasizing here is the fundamental discontinuity as he moves us from the symbols and shadows of Israel into the final forms of his kingdom and church.

(4) Feasting and Yet Fasting

We live in the time between Christ's two comings. It's as if we've been betrothed to Him but have not yet consummated the marriage in full. It's as if the new day has dawned in Him, but the sun's not yet reached high noon. And so, consequently, we live in a time both of feasting and of fasting.

Reflection Questions



- Remembering that fasting is a physical exclamation point put at the end of our spiritual sentences, when was the last time you prayed so fervently that you felt you must accent it with fasting? Explain.
- What does it say about our God that His presence is a party?! Do we know Him like that? Are we feasting with Him? Have we entered in to the assurance and joy that is ours in Him? If not, what's keeping us from it?
- Have we merely added Jesus to our lives—like a new patch on an old garment; like new wine in an old receptacle? Why/how might we be tempted to do this?