

Jesus is King | A Series through the Gospel of Mark

Bursting at the Seams

Text: Mark 2:18-22

Synopsis: It's easy to develop categories for God and others since this helps us know what to expect and what to control. But sometimes God wants to do something new, which requires becoming comfortable with the tension and discomfort of change and trusting in the process.

Old Categories

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" (Mark 2:18)

Context: Three main pillars of Judaism: Prayer, Almsgiving, and Fasting.¹

Specifically: Mourning, grief, repentance.

Generally: What we've always done.

How to identify a category: What would make you feel irritated if you lost it right now?

A Shift in Thinking

And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. **20** The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. (Mark 2:19)

Jesus alters their existing categories by likening his ministry to a wedding (joy).

We think of new things with fear, because we are afraid of change.

But sometimes change is a good thing.

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' (John 7:38)

What if God is wanting to do something new in our midst?

New Categories Are Needed

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. **22** And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins." (Mark 2:20-22)

God is doing something new. That sometimes means we have to throw away the old.

Caveat: Jesus doesn't do away with categories God has created for us; he does away with categories we've created for God.

Ways we try to fit Jesus into categories we understand:

- Politics, Practices, Preferences, Feelings

Hebrews 12:26-29

At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

What if 2020-21 is a bursting at the seams?

What do you want me to do for you? - Jesus (*His most popular question*).

Let's listen to him asking us that question together. Jesus wants to burst some "seams" today.

¹ Edwards. 88