

Small Group Discussion

Scripture: Luke 5: 33-39

³³ They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.”

³⁴ Jesus answered, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? ³⁵ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”

³⁶ He told them this parable: “No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. ³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. ³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’”

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think were the main points of the sermon?
2. To pray for renewal is to pray for transformation. In what ways have you felt lifted up or changed or transformed recently? Is there some challenge that you are currently contending with?
3. Pay attention and notice where the Holy Spirit is already at work. What evidence do you see of the Holy Spirit’s work in our church and in our Valley? What is God up to? Remember that change can be the addition of something or the removal of something.
4. What do you think Pastor Bill meant when he asked:
 - How much renewal can our lives hold?
 - How much renewal can our friendships hold?
 - How much renewal can the Valley hold?
5. If we can’t pour new wine into old wineskins, then we need a new container. What would a new container look like? (new habits?, new rhythms?, new paradigms? Etc) What is your next step? See the insert in the bulletin for some ideas!

A Pattern for Prayer

Let’s Pray

- Praise God
- Confess any sins and surrender our will and desire to be in control
- Ask God to transform us, our household, our church, our region