

**Mt.9.9-17 “New Things”**  
**Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #121**  
**April 4, 2021**

The kingdom of God is for:

- ✚ the spiritually sick who want to be healed,
- ✚ the spiritually corrupt who want to be cleansed,
- ✚ the spiritually poor who want to be rich,
- ✚ the spiritually hungry who want to be fed,
- ✚ the spiritually dead who want to be made alive.
- ✚ It is for ungodly outcasts who long to become God’s own beloved children.

**THE OTHER QUESTION vv.14–17**

Unlike the Pharisees - the question of John’s disciples was sincere,  
The scribes & Pharisees looked on their practices as a testimony to true godliness.

- In reality it was a testimony to their own self-styled piety.

When form becomes the focus of attention, it becomes a barrier to true righteousness.

It can keep an

- ❖ unbeliever from trusting in God &
- ❖ a believer from faithfully obeying Him.

The ... fasting ... practiced by the Pharisees was always out of place.

- A fast is always meaningless if it is performed from habit & does not result from deep concern & mourning .... over some spiritual need.

✚ Going to Church on Sunday is hypocritical if it is done apart from a genuine desire to

- worship & glorify God.

Fasting springs naturally from a broken & grieving heart, ... but fasting as a shallow spiritual ritual apart from such brokenness is an affront to God.

John’s disciples had no basis for genuine faith since they had not followed Jesus yet

Jesus’ made clear that He was teaching an entirely different way of believing, thinking, & living.

He did not come to improve the old system but to renounce & undermine it.

The two ways cannot be connected to one another or be contained one in the other.

Jesus’ new & internal Gospel of forgiveness & cleansing cannot be attached to the old & external traditions of self-righteousness & ritual.

The only life that can contain true righteousness is the new life given by God ..... when a person repents of his sin & trusts in Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior.

Jesus’ did not set aside the divine law & usher in grace — (Nothing is further from the truth.)

Jesus declared that any opponent of the law was an opponent of God (Mt.5.17–19).

God’s law & His grace have always coexisted & have always been perfectly compatible.

The old wineskins were not the teachings of the O.T. but the rabbinical traditions.

### Marks of the true believer:

**First**, like Matthew, the true believer **follows** the Lord.

**Second**, the true believer has **compassion** on the unsaved.

**Third**, a true believer **forsakes** legalism & ritualism.

✚ He fasts only as an expression of genuine **spiritual** concern.

✚ He does not try to attach his new life in Christ to his **old** ritual or religion.

✚ He knows that what is begun in the Spirit cannot be completed in the flesh (Ga.3.3).

**Freedom in Christ has no part in the bondage of legalism.**

**II Co.5.17 -**