

Luke 5:33-39

TIME TO FEAST, NOT FAST

- I. The issue.
 - A. Fasting is an expression of humiliation because of: sin, defeat, bereavement, etc.
 - 1. The ceremonial law commanded fasting once a year on the day of atonement (Lev. 16:29-34; 23:26-32)
 - 2. True fasting is voluntary and spontaneous, not a means to an end and certainly not an end in itself.
 - B. John's disciples fasted.
 - C. There really was no justification for the Pharisees' question (33), for they should have known the law.
- II. Jesus explains that with His being with His disciples is a reason to feast, not fast.
 - A. Jesus takes the frequently used comparison of His blessed presence being like to a wedding-feast.
 - B. As in a wedding so when Jesus is with His disciples there should be joy.
 - C. Jesus does say that there will be a time for His disciples to fast and mourn, namely, when the bridegroom is taken away (35).
 - D. The proper attitude for those who are children of the bride-chamber is one of gladness, not sadness.
- III. Jesus uses two parables to demonstrate the folly of inappropriately fasting when you should be feasting
 - A. The ideas of the figures of speech.
 - 1. Cloth made from animal hair, cotton, linen or hemp shrinks.
 - 2. And old stretched out wineskins will burst as the new wine ferments, resulting in the loss of both the wine and the skins.
 - B. It would be that inappropriate for Jesus' disciples to fast and mourn while He is with them.
 - C. Therefore rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.