

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, March 27, 2022**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 64. Friends of the Bridegroom – Matthew 9:14-17**

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Jesus had answered some objections from the scribes and Pharisees, but now even some disciples of John the Baptist had an objection to Jesus and His disciples not being properly pious. They weren't serious enough about righteousness. Jesus answers them by illustrating the end of the ritualistic Old Covenant and the inauguration of the spiritual realities of the New.

- I. Disciples of John – vs. 14
  - A. Instructed to Follow Jesus – John 3:27-36
    1. Some did – John 1:35-40
    2. Others did not – Acts 19:1-3
  - B. John was in Prison – Matt. 4:12
  - C. A Question of Fasting
    1. Old Testament Fasting
      - a. Mourning over Sin – Joel 2:12; Jonah 3:5
      - b. The Day of Atonement – Lev. 23:26-32
      - c. Days of Disaster – Judges 20:26; 1 Sam. 31:13
    2. Rabbinical (Ritual) Fasting – Matt. 6:16-18
      - a. Piety as Performance
        - 1) Hypocrites – play acting
        - 2) Fake Faces – sad and marred with ash and even cosmetics
        - 3) “To appear to men to be fasting”
      - b. A Miserable Holiness - “To look miserable in order to be thought holy is a wretched piece of hypocrisy; and as it makes fasting into a trick to catch human admiration, it thereby destroys it as a means of grace.” – CH Spurgeon
      - c. Adding to the Word of God – Luke 18:11-12
- II. The Folly of Fasting at a Feast – vs. 15
  - A. The Groom and His Attendants – this isn't a funeral
  - B. In His Presence is Fullness of Joy – Psa. 16:11- “Do not join untimely fasting to their enjoyment of His company.” – CH Spurgeon
  - C. He Will Be Taken Away Suddenly – then they will mourn – John 16:16-23; 17:12-15
- III. New Things are Coming – vs. 16-17
  - A. A Torn Garment and a Patch
  - B. An Old Wineskin and New Wine
  - C. Jesus Did not Come to Reform Judaism
    1. The Old is not the Law
    2. The Old is Rabbinical Traditions
    3. “Jesus came not to repair Israel's worn vestures, but to bring new robes.” – CH Spurgeon – Isa. 61:10-11; Rev. 19:6-9

## **Cross References**

### **John 3:27-36**

27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. 33 He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. 34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. 35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. 36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

### **John 1:35-40**

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). 40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

### **Acts 19:1-3**

19 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."

### **Matthew 4:12**

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

### **Joel 2:12**

12 "Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

### **Jonah 3:5**

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

### **Leviticus 23:26-32**

26 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made

by fire to the Lord. 28 And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God. 29 For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. 30 And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. 31 You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 32 It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath.”

### **Judges 20:26**

26 Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up and came to the house of God and wept. They sat there before the Lord and fasted that day until evening; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

### **1 Samuel 31:13**

13 Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

### **Matthew 6:16-18**

16 “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

### **Luke 18:11-12**

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

### **Psalms 16:11**

11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

### **John 16:16-23**

16 “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” 17 Then some of His disciples said among themselves, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father?’” 18 They said therefore, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not know what He is saying.” 19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’? 20 Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. 21 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

23 “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

### **John 17:12-15**

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

### **Isaiah 61:10-11**

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

### **Revelation 19:6-9**

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”