

A. NEW WINE

- Jesus came to set into motion the promised New Covenant with God’s people. He taught about New Wine to help them anticipate all the newness that was on its way: Luke 5:36-39 NLT--Jesus gave them this illustration: “No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn’t even match the old garment. ³⁷ “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. ³⁸ New wine must be stored in new wineskins. ³⁹ But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. ‘The old is just fine,’ they say.”
- The Luke account of the parable of New Wine introduces a very common issue that believers face as they seek to drink of the New Wine that Jesus brings. (v.39)
- Definition of New—having recently come into existence; known for only a short time; different from one of the same category that existed previously (merriamwebster.com)
- “New,” by its very definition implies that it can be stressful, awkward, inconvenient or messy even while being a blessing.
- Jesus has urged us to “go and learn” more about the new life and lifestyle that He offers. He invites us to His throne of grace to find help even in dealing with “new”!
- Insights:

B. COMMON PROBLEMS

- New relationships are exciting! Getting to know someone better (God or man) can cause joy, renewal, hope for the future and more.
- However, we often don’t anticipate some of the problems that newness can bring.
- Let’s become familiar with these issues so that we won’t miss out on anything good:

1) Unknown

- Humans have a built-in bias against anything new or different. We resist the unknown whereas what’s known feels safe to us.
- New things often challenge our current views about what’s desirable, good, right or appropriate because we depend upon our life experiences to evaluate them.
- The temptation to judge God, ourselves and other people can slip in unaware simply because of the intrinsic differences present.
- This is particularly problematic in our relationship with God and His New Wine because the difference between Him and us is so great! Is 55:8-9--My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts *higher* than your thoughts.
- Let’s flip that thought and think about the huge advantage of having our all-knowing and all-powerful God guiding us in new and better ways of living: Isaiah 40:28-29-- Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His

- understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to *those who have no might* He increases strength.
- Biblical Example: Acts 10:9-16 NLT-- Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, ¹⁰ and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. ¹² In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. ¹³ Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them." ¹⁴ "No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean." ¹⁵ But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean." ¹⁶ The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.
 - LISTENING EXERCISE:
Lord, please search my heart and expose anywhere in my life that I am forfeiting New Wine because I am resisting change, differences, or the unfamiliar:

 - Insights:

 - 2) Unnatural
 - Our minds naturally default to our preferences, and our convictions about what is "normal." This is reinforced by a lifetime of training.
 - Scripture challenges us to let go of fleshly/"natural" thinking so that we can follow the Spirit's thoughts and ways: Rom 8:5 AMP--For those who are *living* according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh [which gratify the body], but those who are *living* according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit [His will and purpose].
 - Apart from the influence of the HS, we strongly prefer old mindsets vs. new ideas: Mt 16:23b--You are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.
 - While it seems perfectly natural for humans to think like men, Jesus spoke those words with a strong warning: Mt 16:23--"Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
 - By consistently connecting with the Lord and His truth, we renew and reorient our thoughts to align with His: Ps 51:6 NAS--Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.
 - It takes time and practice to overcome our natural tendencies toward doubt, manipulating and grumbling and replace them with a godly response: 1 Thes 5:16-18-- Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 - Biblical Example: Acts 16:24-26 NLT-- The jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. ²⁶ Suddenly, there was

a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

- LISTENING EXERCISE
Lord, I know You want to usher New Wine into my difficult places. Show me what it would look like in my specific place of need to trust and even worship You there:

- Insights:

- 3) Unseen
 - As we seek to know God and receive the New Wine He promises, we are confronted with the unseen nature of His kingdom: 2 Cor 4:18 NIV--So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
 - New Wine (the new life of Christ in us) is intangible in nature. His mercy, grace, peace, joy, love, and righteousness are accessed using our spiritual faculties.
 - God asks us to relate to Him primarily by faith (instead of operating by reasoning and our 5 senses): 2 Cor 5:7-- We walk by faith, not by sight.
 - Cultivating personal fellowship with Jesus and listening to Him will aid us tremendously! His Spirit dwells within to help us negotiate this unseen territory: John 1:17-18 NLT-- For the law was given through Moses, but God's unending love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.
 - We grow in living by faith as we get to know God more. We discover that He is trustworthy and we can be confident in what He says: Heb 11:1 NAS--Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 - Biblical Example: Heb 11:7 NLT-- It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before.]
 - LISTENING EXERCISE:
Holy Spirit, I ask You to:
 --Bless me with an ever-greater awareness of Your Spirit that dwells within me.
 --Sharpen my spiritual faculties so that I may enjoy Your presence more consistently.
 -- Increase my capacity to discern Your guidance
 --Grow my faith to follow You more closely.
Record your thoughts:

 - Insights:

C. PERSONAL APPLICATION**• ONE THING**

The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

• PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

• PROCESSING THE TRUTH

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He is calling you to take. Write down your insights.