

Jesus Questioned About Fasting—[Mark 2:18–22](#)

Topics:

Celebration, Fasting, Legalism, Obedience, Questions, Spiritual Disciplines

Open It

1. What do you like most and least about weddings?
2. *What is the longest amount of time you ever went without food? When?
3. If Jesus came to evaluate your church, how do you think He might want to change it?

Explore It

1. *What dilemma puzzled the people who came to Jesus? ([2:18](#))
2. Why did the people come to Jesus? ([2:18](#))
3. What did John's disciples and the Pharisees have in common? ([2:18](#))
4. Looking at Jesus and the Pharisees in this story, how were their attitudes different? ([2:18–22](#))
5. How did Jesus respond to the question that was put to Him? ([2:19](#))
6. To whom was Jesus referring when He spoke of the "guests" and the "bridegroom"? ([2:19](#))

7. Why did Jesus suddenly start speaking about a wedding feast? ([2:19–20](#))
8. *How did Jesus’ story of the wedding feast answer the people’s question about why His disciples did not fast? ([2:19–20](#))
9. *Why did Jesus tell two short stories? ([2:21–22](#))
10. What do the old garment and the old wineskins stand for? ([2:21–22](#))
11. What do the patch of the unshrunk cloth and the new wine stand for? ([2:21–22](#))
12. What are “new wineskins,” and why are they needed? ([2:22](#))

Get It

1. *How were Jesus’ and the Pharisees’ views of piety different?
2. Why do you think Jesus used a wedding feast to illustrate following Him?
3. What new insights into what it means to be a Christian does this story give you?
4. What does this passage teach you about the role fasting should play in your own spiritual life?
5. *How do you need to change your attitudes or actions regarding the spiritual disciplines such as fasting and praying?
6. When has your attitude ever been similar to that of the Pharisees in this story?

7. How can we guard against mere rule-keeping when it comes to spiritual disciplines such as fasting?
8. What difference could the message of this passage make in the procedures and beliefs of your local church?

Apply It

1. *What steps can you take this week to practice a spiritual discipline (fasting, prayer, Bible study, meditation, solitude, simplicity, etc.)?
2. Where and how could you learn more about fasting and prayer over the next few weeks?