

*“Why are Your Disciples having so much FUN?”*

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Q:** Is it proper for a Christian to have fun, joy, pleasure, happiness, excitement, delight?
  - 1.1.1. It's not only ok, it's right! – Eccl.3:12,13.
  - 1.1.2. Ps.16:11 *“In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore”*
- 1.2. **Outline:** [1] Messiah's Merry Men [2] Spandex Stretch Pants [3] Bota Bag Believers!

2. **WHY ARE YOUR DISCIPLES HAVING SO MUCH FUN? (33-39)**

- 2.1. **MESSIAH'S MERRY MEN!** (33-35)
- 2.2. **Intro:** Still at **the feast** in Levi's house.
  - 2.2.1. **Important side note:** Mark 2:18 *“The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were fasting”*☺
  - 2.2.2. Think about it, ever been **fasting** when everyone else is **feasting**?
    - 2.2.2.1. Bummer time to fast!
- 2.3. (33) The question!
  - 2.3.1. Even today, Jesus & His ministry are misunderstood!
- 2.4. **The Problem:** *“They're having too much fun!”*
  - 2.4.1. They would say, *“Religion should be hard, rigid, rigorous, inflexible, stiff, strict, and mournful!”*
  - 2.4.2. Jewish customs weren't wrong, but must be **altered** by His coming.
  - 2.4.3. It's not **austere & rigid** duties of ceremonial Law. - It's not **stern & harsh** requirements.
  - 2.4.4. **Q:** Does this describe your religion at all?
  - 2.4.5. **Q:** Have you ever caught yourself resenting other Christians being **joyful**?
- 2.5. (34) To the **Pharisees** religion was a **funeral**; but to **Jesus** it was a **wedding**!
  - 2.5.1. The figure of a **Wedding** in that day consisted of: Ceremonies, Merriment & Festivity lasting 7 days.
  - 2.5.2. The **groom** was treated like a **king**, & his **bride** like a **queen**.
    - 2.5.2.1. Guests were expected to enjoy themselves & thus add to the joy of the occasion!
    - 2.5.2.2. **Q:** Do you have a relative that at “any” family event they are having a doggie downer of a day?
    - 2.5.2.3. Not to show joy was an **insult** to the family giving the wedding!<sup>1</sup>
- 2.6. Jesus disciples can't fast because **He was with them!**
  - 2.6.1. It is actually **inappropriate** at a wedding!
  - 2.6.2. With Him in their midst, how could they be anything but joyful?
  - 2.6.3. **Q:** Are ascetic practices necessary to demonstrate our loyalty to Him?
  - 2.6.4. His presence called for a **celebration**, not **mourning**!
  - 2.6.5. **Q:** Do we get this? Do we really believe this?
    - 2.6.5.1. If you know the bridegroom, you'll share His Joy! ☺

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe; Windows on the Parables; pg.36.

- 2.6.6. Rom.7:4 “Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be **married to another**—to Him who was raised from the dead.”
- 2.6.6.1. **Married to Christ you experience:** the joy of **sins forgiven**; the joy of **answered prayer**; the joy of **fellowship**; the joy of **service**; the joy of **bringing forth fruit unto God**; the joy of **faith**; the joy of **doing good**; the joy of **giving hope to those who are in trouble**.
- 2.7. (35) There will be plenty of time to fast later.
- 2.7.1. **Fasting in OT:** Only once commanded, only 1 time a year.
- 2.7.1.1. Day of Atonement (Lev.23:27-32) “**afflict your soul**”.
- 2.7.2. **Fasting in NT:** Never commanded. But seems to be inferred we would.
- 2.7.2.1. **Jesus** fasted; **Jesus** said, “**when you fast**”(inferring we would); **Jesus** fasted; **Antioch church** fasted before they sent out Paul & Bar.(Acts 13:2); **Paul & Barn** did as they appointed elders in every church(Acts14:23); **Husbands & wives** should if they are abstaining from each other(1 Cor.7); Paul said, “**in fasting often**”.
- 2.7.3. During the Captivity the Jews came up with more occasions to fast (Zech.7) **The question they came up with:** “Was it proper to continue a fast marking the **destruction of the temple** as our fathers have for the last 70 years...with this new one being built?”
- 2.7.3.1. How easy to fall into the **Self-imposed** rather than the **Scripturally-imposed!**
- 2.7.4. **Q:** Are you asking, what is **ceremonial protocol**? Or, what is my **deeper devotion to Jesus**?
- 2.7.5. The **pious Pharisees** fasted **twice** each week! – Lk.18:12
- 2.7.5.1. They obviously viewed fasting as a mark of special commitment & dedication.
- 2.7.6. **Immature people** require religious regulations to tell them what to do, & these help them to measure their “spiritual life”.
- 2.7.6.1. Our relationship w/the Lord isn’t so much a matter of traditions & rules, **as it is:**  
**Faith, Love, & a desire to Please Him!**
- 2.7.7. One argued that, “if a guy dates a girl for 2 hours(& if God is more important to him), then he ought to spend more than 2 hours w/God or consider himself backslidden.”<sup>2</sup>
- 2.7.7.1. The problem with many such *ever-so-spiritual-sounding statements* is that they are of **human manufacturing** rather than **heaven’s manufacturing**.
- 2.7.7.2. Let’s hold to the old **Youth for Christ** slogan: “**Geared to the times, but anchored to the Rock**”.
- 2.8. Its **too bad** the average person on the street sees such **poor examples** of Christian living that he thinks trusting Christ means **the end** of your **enjoyment!**
- 2.8.1. He doesn’t realize that Jesus gives us “**richly all things to enjoy!**” 1 Tim.6:17
- 2.8.1.1. [NIV] “**who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment**”
- 2.9. **Q:** Is your fellowship with Christ a **feast** or a **funeral**?
- 2.10. **Prayer:** “**Lord, help us not to have a religion of habit but a religion of the heart! Lord, turn some of our religious fasts into righteous feasts!**”

<sup>2</sup> Leonard Ravenhill; Revival Praying; pg.71 (quoted in Jim Townsends book Minor Prophets)

- 2.11. **SPANDEX STRETCH PANTS!** (36)
- 2.12. **Problem:** If you patch old brittle garments with new cloth, the cloth will shrink when washed, & you will have a bigger tear than before.
- 2.13. **Q: What happens when formal religion when counters the new life which Jesus brings?**
- 2.13.1. Heb.10:9 “Here I (Jesus) am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the **first** to establish the **second**(Cov.)”
- 2.13.1.1. The two covenants are incompatible.
- 2.13.1.2. Jesus’ way simply can’t be “**patched onto**” Judaism like a piece of cloth.
- 2.13.2. And what made Judaism so inadequate to contain the new way of the gospel?
- 2.13.2.1. No longer pliable, can’t stretch.
- 2.13.3. **Q: Are we ready for change? Q: Are you uncomfortable being comfortable yet?**
- 2.13.4. **Q: Are we like a brittle old cloth ready to rip; or as flexible as Spandex Stretch Pants?**
- 2.13.5. Many churches today refuse anything **new**, & as a consequence lack **Joy & Power** that God has for them!
- 2.13.5.1. Other churches accept every **new gimmick** that comes along. (Big Diff.)
- 2.14. Jesus didn’t come to “**patch**” people’s lives, but to make them **whole!**
- 2.15. **Patches** are safe for a time, **until** the garment is washed! [Then it fell apart!]
- 2.15.1. Religion seems safe for a time, until...
- 2.15.2. It can **patch up** a few spots in your life, but it cannot give you new life that transforms.
- 2.15.3. The Pharisees wanting to be **conservative** became “**preservative**”! (www)
- 2.15.4. They had **embalmed** their traditions, & found themselves **dead** right!
- 2.15.5. Jesus wasn’t a **conformer**, nor a **reformer**, but a **Transformer!** (www)
- 2.16. **Q: What’s your attitude toward change?**
- 2.17. **BOTA BAG BELIEVERS!** (37-39)
- 2.18. **Problem:** If you put new wine into old brittle wineskins, the fermenting liquid will produce gas, & the skins will burst. [Thus, new wine required new skins]
- 2.19. The natural man likes his **old ways**. He likes his **old wine**, that is, his **old religion**.<sup>3</sup>
- 2.19.1. It’s problem? *The old skin is not sufficiently pliable.*
- 2.20. Jesus didn’t come to **mix** the old & the new, but to bring new life to all who trust Him!
- 2.20.1. Jesus shows that he represented a **new phase** in what God was doing on earth!
- 2.20.1.1. **A new day has dawned!**
- 2.20.2. Christ taught life must not be a mixture “**you cannot serve two masters!**”
- 2.20.2.1. Paul said, “**to me to live is Christ!**”
- 2.20.3. You can’t have **2 strings** to your bow; You can’t trust in **Christ** & your **works** for salvation; You can’t mix **Law & Grace**; You can’t follow **the world & Christ** at the same time.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> J. Vernon McGee

<sup>4</sup> Lockyer; All the Parables of the Bible; pg.162

- 2.21. There **must** be an adaptation to new times, places, & circumstances.  
 2.21.1. At Pentecost those mocking said, “**They are full of new wine.**”
- 2.22. **New wine** in an old wine skin is safe for a time, **until** fermentation.  
 2.22.1. **Religion seems safe for a time, until...**
- 2.23. (39) **The tragedy is some still say, “the old wine of the Law is better!” & do not want the new.** [The book of **Hebrews** was written to explain how much better the **new covenant faith** is]<sup>5</sup>  
 2.23.1. **Something about us resists change!**  
 2.23.2. We need to long to see the wind of the Spirit blow in fresh transforming power.
- 2.24. Basically the Pharisees were saying, “*Just give me some of that **old time religion!**...It’s good enough for me!*”  
 2.24.1. It was good for our **mothers**. And it’s good enough for me.  
 2.24.2. It was good for our **fathers**. And it’s good enough for me.  
 2.24.3. It will do **when I am dying**. And it’s good enough for me.  
 2.24.4. It will **take us all to heaven**. And it’s good enough for me.
- 2.25. Fermented Christianity!**  
 2.25.1. Maybe you say, “*I’m new wine!*” – **Q: Are you still?**  
 2.25.1.1. Or, have you become old & fermented?  
 2.25.1.2. **Q: Do you crave a pattern/mold to your Christianity?**  
 2.25.2. **Q: Are we as a movement new wine?** Or, are we still living in our past?  
 2.25.3. **Q: Are we as a church new wine?** Or, are we still living in our past?  
 2.25.4. **Q: Are we as individuals new wine?** Or, are we still living in our past?  
 2.25.5. My favorite question I read, **Are you looking at the future in your rearview mirror???**  
 2.25.6. **Here my heart:** I crave a change. We can’t play church anymore. There’s more to our faith than this. There’s more to experiencing God. Being open to His Spirit & his leading. Discontent with the Christian status quo. It’s being **desperate** for God. It’s finding our Passion & releasing it. It’s an unleashed faith. It’s an untamed faith. It’s not settling with just a **patch** on my old life, but a complete makeover!  
 It’s experiencing the **new wine of Joy!!!**
- 2.26. Weaving this altogether:**
- 2.27. Jesus saw the feast in Levi’s house like a **wedding-feast**, *which in a spiritual sense it was*, seeing it celebrated Matthew’s union with Christ<sup>6</sup>  
 2.27.1. Jesus died to place a **New Garment** of His righteousness on us.  
 2.27.2. Jesus rose to give us the **New Wine** of the **gospel**, which must be placed in the **New Wineskin** of **Grace**, not into the **old wineskin** of the **law**.  
 2.27.3. 2 Cor.5:17 “**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become NEW.**”
- 2.28. **End:** Like the wedding tradition that says, “**Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue!**”  
 2.28.1.1. In this section we had something **old**(old religion); something **new**(new life); **but truly** nothing **borrowed**(we own eternal life); nothing **blue**(only Joy!)
- 2.29. **Q: What part will you play in bringing life to your church & to the lives of others?**

<sup>5</sup> Warren Wiersbe; Expository Outlines.

<sup>6</sup> Lockyer; All the Parables of the Bible; pg.161