



Lord of the Change, Mark 2:18-22

Lord of the Change

- How many here like it when what is familiar changes?
 - We get bored with the familiar but then we struggle with change
 - We don't really know what to expect, our assumptions are not met, not sure how to respond, not sure where it is taking us
 - We are not really sure we like it
- Winston Churchill, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."
- Leo Tolstoy, "True life is lived when tiny changes occur."
- Mandy Hale, "Change is painful, but nothing is as painful as staying stuck somewhere you don't belong."

Lord of the Change

- This was especially true for the Jewish religious community at the time of Jesus
 - They had spent 100s of years answering the question, “What does it mean to....”
 - Love the Lord, Keep the Sabbath holy, Honor your father and mother
 - How do I know I’m living as a good Jew should
 - How do I know you are living as a good Jew should

Lord of the Change

- As a result, they had developed 100s of Jewish traditions surrounding The Law to help the people know how they were doing
 - Sabbath - Can I eat an egg laid on the Sabbath, Can I get my ox out of a pit if they fall in on the Sabbath
 - I cannot even begin to describe all the prohibited activities – how far to walk, writing, tearing, lighting a candle, even how you can carry something was defined in detail

Lord of the Change

- Then Jesus shows up not as a baby in a manger, but as the Messiah King
 - How many understand when God shows up change is inevitable
 - Ask Egypt about this as God stripped His people from them
 - Jesus accused them of so burdening the people with their traditions that it was driving them away from God, bringing condemnation to them while forgetting about grace and mercy
 - **Matthew 23:4 NIV**, “They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.”

Lord of the Change

- Jesus the Messiah came with a message of freedom, hope but mostly a message of change
 - We see Jesus doing things that the religious leader would declare making Jesus ceremonial unclean or unfit for Temple Worship
 - We find Him touching and healing ones with leprosy
 - We find Him forgiving sins
 - We find Jesus accepting and eating with sinners and tax collectors
- One thing you can count on when the Lord of Change is present is more change is coming

Mark 2:18-22 NIV, 18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

- Jesus did not come to set aside the Law but to fulfill every little part of it, but not necessarily their traditions
 - **Matthew 5:17-18 NIV**, 17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."
- This is not a discourse or even a command to fast

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- What is the question?
 - Why are You and your disciples are not acting right?
- Some of your Bibles will say "Some People came" while others will say "They came"
 - Some people or they were confused
 - The most religious people I know are fasting but not you or your disciples
 - But Jesus is doing things that only God can do, and they are not
 - Confusion is not wrong if it leads you to look for the truth

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- How did they know they were fasting?
 - There was only one fast commanded in the Law and that was once a year on the Day of Atonement
 - Probably it was Monday or Thursday the traditional days of fasting

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- How did they know they were fasting?
 - **Matthew 6:16-18 NIV**, 16 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

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- Fasting is a matter of the heart
 - **Matthew 23:23 NIV**, 23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

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- We hear similar things today
 - If you were really serious about discipleship and worship of God, then you would....
 - Read the same Bible we do, Worship like we do, Dress like we do (*Let us give you the definition of modesty*), Refrain from doing these events like we do, be passionate about the same thing we are...
 - If not, you must be a sinner, not as enlightened as we are, not as close to God as we are

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- Each individual is completely unique in characteristics, experiences, and anointings by God
 - I wonder at times if we don't try and suppress the uniqueness of those around us
- Are there times we judge without remembering grace and mercy?

Mark 2:18-22 NIV, 19 Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.”

- Hear Jesus say, “Fasting now would be inappropriate”
 - Normally it is inappropriate to rejoice loudly at a funeral but is appropriate to let it rip at a sporting event
- Jewish weddings were a great time of rejoicing, celebration, dancing, and feasting lasting a week
 - The wine of joy flowed freely
 - Jesus’ first miracle recorded in Scripture was at a wedding

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- Can you hear Jesus ask, “Wait a minute. Don’t you guys go to weddings?”
 - Is there not a Monday and Thursday during wedding week?
 - Do you fast during the wedding?
 - No, when the bridegroom is present, we cannot fast, it would be insulting to the family
 - So there are exceptions to your absolutes?

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- Jesus is leading them to change their understanding of who He is
 - He is the bridegroom of Israel described in the Old Testament
 - Throughout the Old Testament the Nation of Israel is identified as the Bride of God
 - Jesus is telling them He is the bridegroom and where the bridegroom is, there is rejoicing so it would be inappropriate to fast now

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- Jesus is telling them He is the bridegroom of scripture
 - There will come a time when the He will be taken away and on that day the will fast
 - What do you think the disciples did after the crucifixion but before the resurrection of Jesus?

Mark 2:18-22 NIV, “21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse.

- What is Jesus saying?
 - “I did not come to patch up the Law. I did not come to patch up you. I came to make all things new.”
- The Law was perfect
 - **Psalm 19:4 NIV**, The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.”
 - We on the other hand, in and of ourselves, are far from it
 - **Romans 8:3 NIV**, “the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh”

Mark 2:18-22 NIV, “21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse.

- The Law was given to show people how it is impossible to be good enough to justify God’s forgiveness by our own actions
- It was given to show people their need for a Savior
- Hear Jesus tell them, “I did not come to simply patch you up.”

Mark 2:18-22 NIV, “22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”

- Hear Jesus say, “I have come to make you new wineskins so I can pour my new wine of the Holy Spirit within you”
 - **Romans 8:1-4 NIV**, 1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

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- Salvation by grace and mercy through faith
 - Complete, permanent salvation never needing a sacrifice again
 - A new heart or desire to follow and live for God
 - Truly a new creation

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- **2nd Corinthians 5:17 NIV**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
- **MSG**, Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him.”

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- But with salvation comes continual progressive change orchestrated by the Lord of Change
 - **2nd Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV**, 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Lord of the Change

- There was a massive change coming into the lives of Jesus' disciples
 - One day they were arguing over who would be the greatest in Jesus' Kingdom
 - The next they were not sure the Kingdom was even there anymore
 - Before that day Jesus gave them and us hope in the change – The Lord of Change is in control

Lord of the Change

- There was a massive change coming into the lives of Jesus' disciples
 - **John 14:1-3 NIV**, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."
 - **MSG**, "Don't let this rattle you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live."

Lord of the Change

- Change in your life is going to come
 - Some changes you can plan for; others sneak up and knock you down
 - If Jesus is Lord of your life, then He is also the Lord of your changes
 - “Don’t let this rattle you. You trust God, don’t you? Trust Jesus.”
 - He has a plan and purpose for every change that comes into your life



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