

FASTING, FEASTING, & FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

Luke 5:33-39

- Beware of measuring spiritual life by religious activities.
5:33
- Real spiritual life is found through a joyful relationship with Jesus, our bridegroom.
5:34-35
- Beware of trying to fit your new life with Jesus into your old ways of living—they are incompatible!
5:36-38
- Beware of missing new life in Jesus by being content with your old ways.
5:39



FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read Luke 5:33. How are we tempted to measure our spiritual lives by our religious activity? How would you describe the relationship between your spiritual life and activities like Bible reading or praying?
2. Do you think fasting has a role to play in our spiritual lives today? Why or why not? (see Matthew 6:16-18; Acts 13:2-3, 14:23; 1 Tim 4:1-5)
3. Read Luke 5:33-35. How does Jesus redirect their attention to His own identity? What does the picture of Jesus as the bridegroom tell us about His identity? (see Isa 54:5-8, 61:10, 62:4-5; Jer 2:2; Hosea 2:19-20; Eze 16; John 3:29-30).
4. How would you assess the joy in your life? Why do you think this is the case? What should joy be like in our lives? (see Rom 14:17; 1 Thes 5:16; Phil 1:18, 3:1, 4:4; 1 Pet 1:5-9; Rom 5:1-5; John 16:22)
5. Read Luke 5:36-38. How would you explain what Jesus is communicating to a young child? What is the old and new? (see Jer 31:31-34)
6. How would you describe the relationship of the covenant to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3, Gen 15) to the covenant of Moses (Ex 19-24, 34:10-28) to the New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34; Eze 36:25-27; Heb 8:6-13, 9:11-15)?
7. What are some ways people might try to fit their new life with Jesus into their old ways of living? How can this happen with both legalism and license? Has this ever happened in your life?
8. Read 5:39. How would you share the gospel with someone who's content with how they do things in life?

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.... Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle