Lifegroup Study – 15th April 2018

**Mathew 9 – Part 2: New Wine**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Pharisees were watching how Jesus’ disciples were living and were indignant at the freedom they seemed to be experiencing. Instead of religiously observing the law and its restrictions, the disciples appeared to be walking with Jesus with a sense of celebration. Jesus likens it to a wedding party, full of hope and joy for the future. Jesus came to bring a new covenant where the blessing of God could flow freely through grace. It requires us to change some of our thinking and behaviour to live this life of freedom and joy.

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**Read Matthew 9:14-16**

14Then John’s disciples came and asked [Jesus], “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?”

15Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

16“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

**KEY POINTS FROM SERMON**

Leaders note:

The disciples didn’t need to fast to get close to Jesus because He was already with them. The same is true for believers now. Rather, fasting is a spiritual discipline to help us focus and be sensitive to God in prayer. For a study on fasting, contact Adam or Rachel for more info.

Main focus for discussion:

* Wine is a symbol of blessing, joy and life.
* In order to experience the "new wine" Jesus came to bring us we need a new paradigm.
* We have permission to walk in joy today because of what Jesus has done for us.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you heard the sermon, was there anything God spoke to you about personally from this message?
2. Within this passage, what insights into God’s character do you find?
3. What do these passages teach us about God’s purposes for his people? What do you think this means for you personally?
4. What do you think the wine represents in your life? What is the difference between the old and new?
5. **James 1:22** says “*Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*” What does this passage suggest is important for us to do? What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word?

**PRAYER POINTS**

* For each individual to have a personal revelation of what these scriptures mean for them.
* For any areas that individuals have highlighted they want to grow in
* For a release of joy in the lives of God’s people so we can glorify God

