

THE RELIGION OF JESUS  
Follow Christ  
Banská Štiavnica, 29th August 2021

Οἱ δὲ εἶπον πρὸς αὐτόν, Διὰ τί οἱ μαθηταὶ Ἰωάννου νηστεύουσιν πυκνά, καὶ δεήσεις ποιοῦνται, ὁμοίως καὶ οἱ τῶν Φαρισαίων· οἱ δὲ σοὶ ἐσθίουσιν καὶ πίνουσιν;  
<sup>34</sup> Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς, Μὴ δύνασθε τοὺς υἱοὺς τοῦ νυμφῶνος, ἐν ᾧ ὁ νυμφίος μετ' αὐτῶν ἐστίν, ποιῆσαι νηστεύειν;  
<sup>35</sup> Ἐλεύσονται δὲ ἡμέραι, καὶ ὅταν ἀπαρθῇ ἀπ' αὐτῶν ὁ νυμφίος, τότε νηστεύουσιν ἐν ἐκείναις ταῖς ἡμέραις.  
<sup>36</sup> Ἔλεγεν δὲ καὶ παραβολὴν πρὸς αὐτούς ὅτι Οὐδεὶς ἐπίβλημα ἱματίου καινοῦ ἐπιβάλλει ἐπὶ ἱμάτιον παλαιόν· εἰ δὲ μήγε, καὶ τὸ καινὸν σχίσει, καὶ τῷ παλαιῷ οὐ συμφωνεῖ τὸ ἀπὸ τοῦ καινοῦ.  
<sup>37</sup> Καὶ οὐδεὶς βάλλει οἶνον νέον εἰς ἀσκοὺς παλαιούς· εἰ δὲ μήγε, ῥήξει ὁ νέος οἶνος τοὺς ἀσκοὺς, καὶ αὐτὸς ἐκχυθήσεται, καὶ οἱ ἀσκοὶ ἀπολοῦνται.  
<sup>38</sup> Ἀλλὰ οἶνον νέον εἰς ἀσκοὺς καινοὺς βλητέον, καὶ ἀμφότεροι συντηροῦνται.  
<sup>39</sup> Καὶ οὐδεὶς πιὼν παλαιὸν εὐθέως θέλει νέον· λέγει γάρ, Ὁ παλαιὸς χρηστότερός ἐστιν.

**Luke 5:33-39** And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink."  
<sup>34</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?"  
<sup>35</sup> The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."  
<sup>36</sup> He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old."  
<sup>37</sup> And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed.  
<sup>38</sup> But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.  
<sup>39</sup> And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, "The old is good."

## OUTLINE

### 0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. THE PROBLEM → DEPERSONALIZATION
- 0.2. THE CONTEXT
- 0.3. RELIGIONS NEXT TO EACH OTHER

### 1. THE PHARISEES

- 1.1. A RELIGION OF DUTIES
- 1.2. DANGERS

### 2. JOHN THE BAPTIST

- 2.1. A RELIGION OF INTROSPECTION
- 2.2. DANGERS

### 3. JESUS THE MESSIAH

- 3.1. A RELIGION OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
- 3.2. DANGERS
- 3.3. ENJOYING THE SON OF GOD

### 4. TO REMEMBER

### 0. INTRODUCTION

- new wineskins → (1) new forms for new power/the Holy Spirit, (2) new demands for new man/born again, (3)

#### 0.1. THE PROBLEM → DEPERSONALIZATION

- the greatest commandment → loving God...
- **Heb 12:1-2** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,  
<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus (ἀφ' ὁρῶντες εἰς τὸν τῆς πίστεως ἀρχηγὸν καὶ τελειωτὴν Ἰησοῦν), the founder and perfecter

of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### 0.2. THE CONTEXT

- Who asked the question? → observers? (choosing the best?)
- Why were there still disciples of the Pharisees and disciples of John when the Messiah had arrived?

### 0.3. RELIGIONS NEXT TO EACH OTHER

- the disciples of John → the prophecy of the coming Messiah
- the disciples of the Pharisees → the Law of Moses
- the disciples of Jesus → reality

## 1. THE PHARISEES

### 1.1. A RELIGION OF DUTIES

- 613 commandments listed from the Torah

### 1.2. DANGERS

- → Galatians
- formalism → religion consists of rules to be obeyed and actions to be performed (circumcision)
- externalism → praying / fasting to be seen by men (**Gal 4:10** You observe days and months and seasons and years)
- legalism → saved by the works of the law (**Gal 5:4** ...you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace)
- judgmentalism → **Gal 2:4** Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in - who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery-

## 2. JOHN THE BAPTIST

- **Mark 1:1-5** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." <sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- **Acts 19:4** "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."

### 2.1. A RELIGION OF INTROSPECTION

- **Ps 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart (בְּחַקְרֵי אֱלֹהִים יִדְרֶשׁ לִּי)! Try me and know my thoughts! <sup>24</sup>And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
- **2Cor 13:5** Examine yourselves (ἑαυτοὺς πειράζετε), to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves (ἑαυτοὺς δοκιμάζετε). Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?- unless indeed you fail to meet the test!
- **Luke 15:17** "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!'"

### 2.2. DANGERS

- [CHAMBERS *Christian Disciplines*] ...emancipation from self-consciousness is like a deliverance from a terrible sickness
- (sanctified) self in the centre...

*Self-consciousness* - Come unto Me. Matthew 11:28. God means us to live a fully-orbed life in Christ Jesus, but there are times when that life is attacked from the outside, and we tumble into a way of introspection which we thought had gone. Self-consciousness is the first thing that will upset the completeness of the life in God, and self-consciousness continually produces **wrestling**. Self-consciousness is not sin; it may be produced by a nervous temperament or by a sudden dumping down into new circumstances. It is never God's will that we should be anything less than absolutely complete in Him. Anything that disturbs rest in Him must be cured at once, and it is

not cured by being ignored, but by coming to Jesus Christ. If we come to Him and ask Him to produce Christ-consciousness, He will always do it until we learn to abide in Him. [CHAMBERS *My Utmost for His Highest*].

- self-pity → **1 John 3:19-20** By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.
- Ecc 7:16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroyg thyself?

[CHAMBERS] If you examine yourself too much, you unfit yourself for life. There is a stage in life when introspection is necessary, but if it is pushed too far a man becomes abnormally hypersensitive, either in conceit or grovelling. Introspection is the result of love or of anything elemental. (Shade of His hand: Talks on the Book of Ecclesiastes)

- sense of unworthiness → **Rom 7:24** Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

### 3. JESUS THE MESSIAH

- We are changed by looking, not by introspection. (CHAMBERS, *Christian Disciplines*)

#### 3.1. A RELIGION OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

- **John 14:17-18** ...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
- **1 Pt 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

#### 3.2. DANGERS

- forgetting forgiveness (**2 Peter 1:8-9** ...being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.)

#### 3.3. ENJOYING THE SON OF GOD

- the Logos → creation, wisdom,
- the High Priest → forgiveness, salvation, faith
- the King → hope, power,

### 4. TO REMEMBER

- All of us are in danger of losing first love – the focus on our relationship with Jesus.
- The ready substitutes are formalism or self-improvement.
- Make sure you find the Son of God in everything.