



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Week of October 24, 2021*

*Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.*

### **Sermon Text**

Luke 5:33-39

***33 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." 34 And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? 35 The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." 36 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. 37 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. 38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"***

*If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiKaichurch.org/sermononline>*

### **Summary**

In this week's passage, the Pharisees continue to criticize Jesus and His disciples - this time over the issue of fasting. The Pharisees prided themselves on their twice a week fasting in accordance with their

man-made traditions, and questioned why Jesus' disciples did not do the same. Jesus uses the image of a bridegroom and bride to explain the love between the Messiah and His people. While the groom is still present, His people will rejoice, but they will fast once the Messiah returns to heaven. Then, using the imagery of new wine and old wineskins, Jesus makes it clear that the gospel cannot exist in an old "wineskin" of works-based salvation.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. In Leviticus 16:29-34 we learn that fasting was commanded on the Day of Atonement as a way to bring about humility and meaningful reflection and sorrow over one's sin. Why/how do you think fasting accomplishes this?
2. What danger must be avoided by people who are very consistent in their practice of spiritual disciplines such as fasting, Bible reading, prayer, etc? In other words, how might self-discipline be used for vanity rather than for true spiritual growth? How can you avoid this danger?
3. The Scriptures paint a picture of the church as the bride of Christ who longs for her Beloved. There exists a yearning in those who love Jesus, to be united with Him. Do you experience this ache of longing to be in the presence of Christ...do you long for His return? If so, how does this reveal itself in your life? If not, should you? How does fasting help?
4. Think about your own life...what do you long for more than the return of Jesus Christ? Why?
5. Why can't the "new wine" of the gospel of Jesus Christ be put into the "old wineskins" of a works-based salvation?