

What is this?



Luke 5:33-39

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking." Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.

And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'"

Continuing from Luke 5:30

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

**Have a go at Jesus
through his disciples**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees,

**Why aren't you like
us?**



Some Examples of Fasting in the OT

Moses – at Mt Sinai Ex 34:28



On the day of atonement: Lev 16:29

"This is to be a lasting ordinance for you:
On the tenth day of the seventh month you must
deny yourselves and not do any work

King Jehoshaphat and Judah under attack, 2Ch 20:2-3

Exiles about to make the return journey Ezra 8:21

Queen Esther tries to prevent Jewish genocide Esther 4:16,

What has gone wrong?

Isaiah 58:5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?



Zechariah 7:3-5 *They asked* , "Should I mourn and fast in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?"
Then the word of the LORD Almighty came to me: "Ask all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted?'"

back to Luke ...

They fastbut yours go on eating and drinking."



You should be like us !
BUT
Being with Jesus can be joyful!

Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?"

**What is Jesus
saying
about himself?**



But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

“taken” =



How long was Jesus “taken” from them?

MAJOR INFERENCE ..

What would be the normal response of the disciples after he “returned” to them?

Galatians 5:22

So where does fasting fit in?

Fasting in the New Testament times

Acts 13:1-2 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Later **(Danger – beware!)**

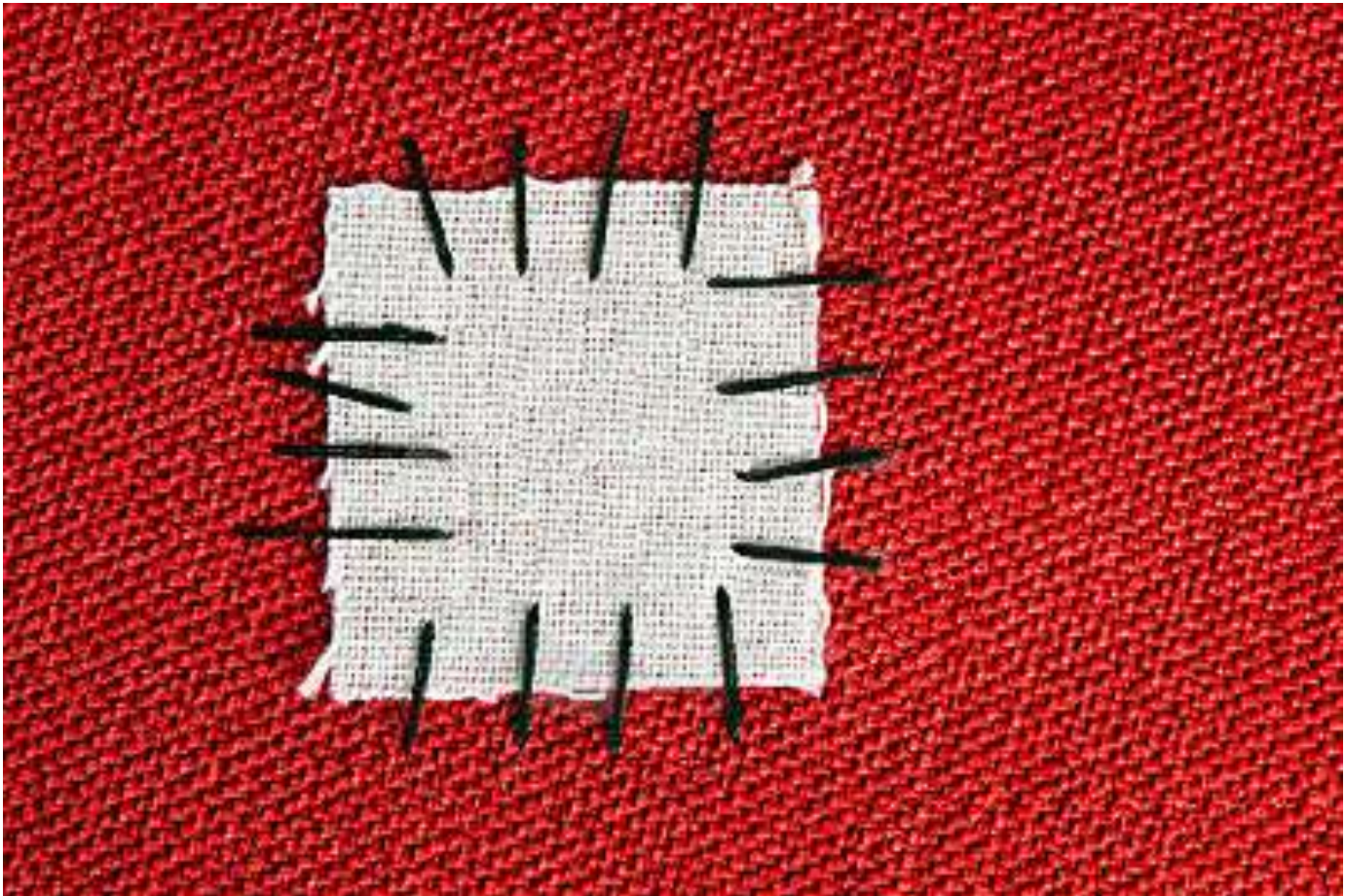
The Didache or The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles is a brief early Christian treatise, dated by most scholars to the late first or early 2nd century.

Do not fast like the hypocrites (Mat 6:16)

“And let not your fasts be with those of the hypocrites, for they fast on Mondays and Thursdays, but you fast Wednesdays and Fridays.”



He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old."



And no one pours new wine into old wineskins.

Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins;
the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.
No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins





The new and the old ways are not compatible

If you try to squeeze the new life into the old religious mould you finish up with nothing.

And no one after drinking old wine wants the new,
for they say, 'The old is better.'"



Danger - Beware!

YOUNG RED WINE:

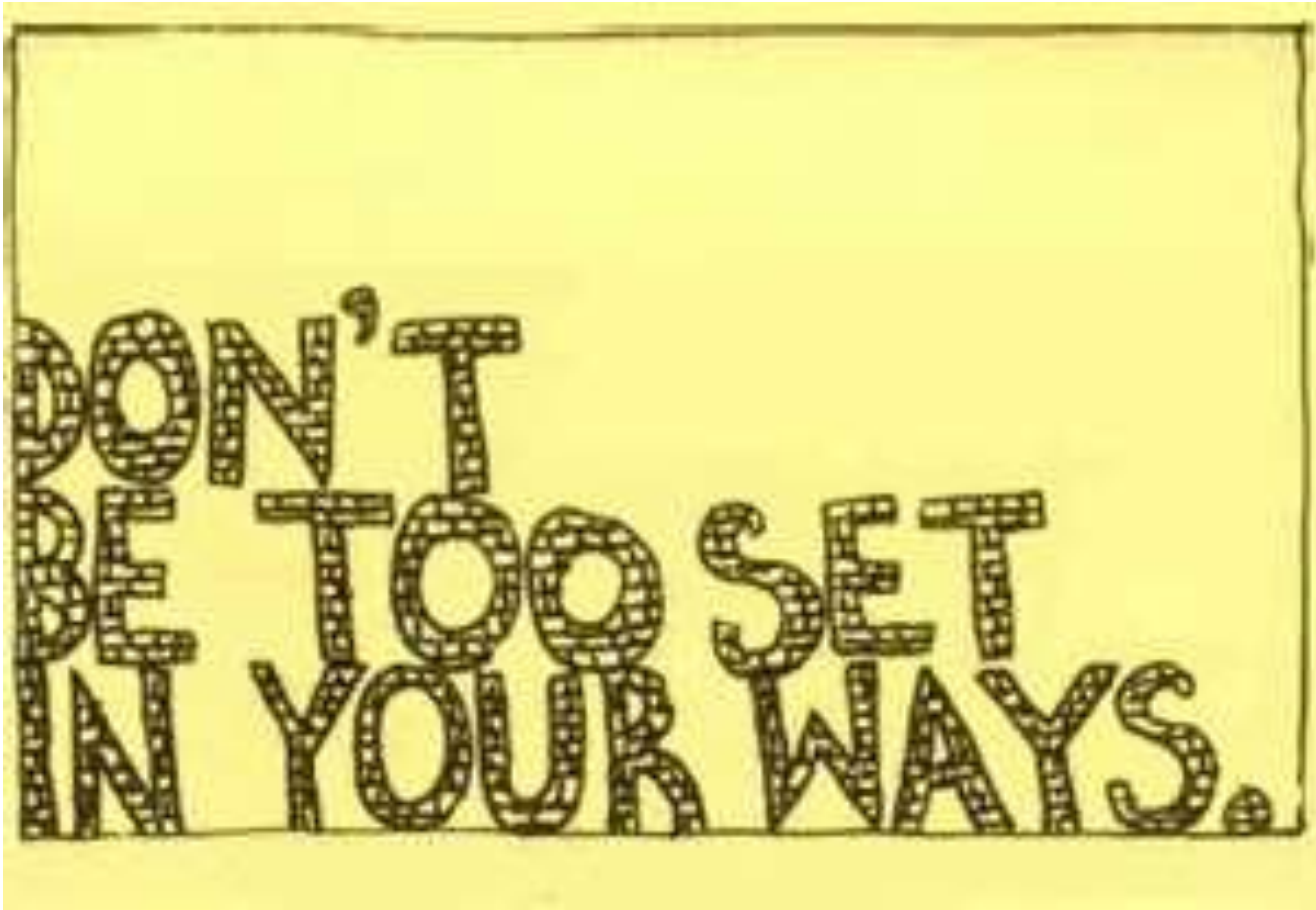
- high anthocyanin
- high tannin

OLD RED WINE:

- 90% less anthocyanin
- low tannin

And no one after drinking old wine wants the new,
for they say, 'The old is better.'

What's the point?



It can lock you into the past and out of the future.

**Do you want to be open to
the joy and freedom that
knowing Jesus brings?**

new wine must be poured into
new wineskins

**Have you made Jesus
Lord of all?**