

New Wineskins

What on earth is a wineskin?

A wineskin is “an ancient container made of animal skin (usually goat) used to transport liquid, such as wine.”

Matthew 9:17b (Also found in Luke 5:37)

“Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the wine bursts the skins and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

So essentially- we are the wineskin. What we carry (the “wine”) is God’s work, ministry, anointing, calling, gifts, etc.

In order for us to carry God’s “new wine”, we first have to be made into a new vessel. We want to be found preserved in Him, and also for His work to be preserved in us.

*First, an obvious but important thought:

The animal that is becoming the wineskin needs to be all the way dead....

“And He [Jesus] said to all, ‘If anyone would come after Me, let him deny Himself and take up His cross daily and follow Me.’”

Characteristics of someone carrying a cross:

1. They are headed in only one direction.
2. They are demanding no further rights and comforts.
3. They have no future plans of their own.

How you obtain a new wineskin: (From the commentary of an actual craftsman)

1. Curing: A stage of cleansing.
 - “This process softens the hard areas on the flesh.”
 - In what area of life do you “tense up” when the Lord tries to put His finger on it?

2. Soaking: In pure water.
 - "This takes a lot of time."
 - This is like spending time with the Lord.

3. Fleshing: First major cutting after the initial gutting out of the animal flesh.
 - Heb. 4: 12 "The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
 - This is essentially the sanctification process. (Sanctification: "The setting apart of something for a higher purpose")

"You're never going to change the world if you keep trying to be like it."

4. Unerring: Another soaking time.
 - "Except this time, it's done in lime. This is to find out if there is still any more hard parts left on the flesh. The lime burns away the remaining flesh."

5. Skudding: Another cutting process
 - "Except this time, the blade is very thin and very, very sharp."

"The craftsman knows that even if the smallest bit of flesh is still left on the skin, it will eventually rot the entire thing. This process will not work unless the craftsman is very skillful and very careful."

...Thank God that He is our craftsman.

6. Bathing: Done in a solution of oil.
 - "For further softening and stretching."
 - In the bible, oil is always a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

- It is only when the Holy Spirit is stretching you that you finally begin to look like Jesus.

7. Drying: "The real test"

- "This test is to see whether or not the wineskin is actually useable. Any crack and any hole will be found when you are drying out a wineskin"
- The wineskin is usually placed on a shelf for a time to complete the drying process.
- "If the wineskin was alive it would probably say 'This is a waste of time' or 'Why have I been left here?'"

- This is the desert times in our life.
- Exodus 7:16- Let My people go that they might serve Me in the wilderness." (Not a verse you typically hear...Everyone wants to talk about the "Promised Land" but rarely do they talk about he wilderness)

*"If any of the above steps are skipped, the wineskin is ruined and it has no lasting value."

Isaiah 43:18-19 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Song: "New Wine" by Hillsong, Sung by Brooke Fraser

Application:

In order to carry the work that the Lord is asking us as leaders to do, what area of life do you need to let Him make you into a new vessel?