

New Wineskins

Matthew 9:1-17

by Don Falkos

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Some men came to Jesus carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven."

Some experts in the Law were indignant, "This is blasphemy. Only God can forgive sins."

Jesus said, "Which is easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up and walk'? I'll show you that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins." He said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, pick up your mat, and go home."

The man stood up, picked up his mat, and went home. Everyone there was awestruck and praised God.

One day Jesus encountered a tax collector named Matthew and said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed him.

Later Jesus ate dinner at Matthew's home. There were many tax collectors and other disreputable people who were guests at this meal.

When the Pharisees complained, Jesus said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. Sick people do. Now go and learn what this means: 'I want your love, not sacrifices.' I haven't come to call those who think they're righteous. I've come to encourage those who know they're sinners to turn to God."

When asked why his disciples were always eating and drinking instead of fasting, Jesus replied, "How can they mourn when the bridegroom is with them? The day is coming when the bridegroom will be taken away. That will be the time for fasting.

"No one patches an old garment with new fabric. The patch will shrink, making the tear even worse.

"No one puts new wine into old wineskins. As the new wine ferments, it will expand and burst the old wineskins. New wine has to be put into new wineskins."