

Wait, What?

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Preached by Rob McDonald

KEY PASSAGES

Luke 5:33-39 (NIV)

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.'"

FIVE KEY POINTS

- 1 The Pharisees had been keeping an eye on Jesus.** They fasted twice a week and could see he and his disciples ate lunch every day, so they brought it as a charge. Fasting was never really what the argument was about.
- 2 Fasting itself is a good thing.** Jesus treats it elsewhere as a real discipline. What he has no patience for is a good gift fenced off into a have-to, with us deciding the rules and watching each other keep them.
- 3 He will not be a patch.** Tearing a piece off a new garment to mend an old one ruins both. Jesus is the whole garment, and he wants to clothe you head to toe rather than be sewn onto one corner of the life you already had.
- 4 New wine was Messiah language.** Amos and Joel promised new wine dripping from the mountains, so the teachers of the law would have heard the claim in it. He keeps pouring it whether you are 16 or 80, and hearts go brittle like an old skin if we stop letting him soften them.
- 5 Calling himself the groom makes you the bride.** Christ is not marrying a building or a crowd in the abstract, he is marrying you. He has already committed for good, stayed faithful, laid down his life, and come to know you better than anyone.

STORIES & ILLUSTRATIONS

Islanders are good at noticing. Rob had summer visitors in the pews and warned them what they were in for. The neighbour who still has not left for work by 7:48. The fresh asphalt that has sat unused for ten days. The Pharisees had the same gift and used it on Jesus.

Pink socks in the engineering buildings. He left for Waterloo in the late 80s without enough laundry for two loads, so his white shirts and socks went in with a brand new pair of red shorts. He is colour blind, so nothing looked wrong coming out of the dryer. Everyone else noticed.

A pig at a wedding in the Congo. His son Sandy showed him video of a wedding near Goma, everyone in bright colours and shined shoes, and somebody's gift to the couple was a live 300-pound pig. It got loose, knocked over the presents and a couple of guests, and no part of the plan survived it.

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