

Seasons change: Being prepared for what's NEXT ...

There is no correlation between **knowing** what's next and being **prepared** for what's next.

Focus: preparation over information

Luke 5:33-35

Then they said to Him, "John's disciples fast often and say prayers, and those of the Pharisees do the same, but Yours eat and drink." Jesus said to them, "You can't make the wedding guests fast while the groom is with them, can you? But **the time will come** when the groom will be taken away from them—then they will fast in those days."

2 key words:

New

Incompatible

Fasting:

- a) a hunger for MORE of Jesus and His power than you currently have
- b) intentionally making room for MORE ...

Luke 5:36-38

He also told them a parable: "No one tears a patch from a **new** garment and puts it on an old garment. Otherwise, not only will he tear the **new**, but also the piece from the **new** garment will not match the old. And no one puts **new** wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the **new** wine will burst the skins, it will spill, and the skins will be ruined. No, **new** wine is put into **fresh** wineskins. And no one, after drinking old wine, wants **new**, because he says, 'The old is **better**.'"

God is doing "new" (x7)

Isaiah 43:18-19

Do not remember the past events, pay no attention to things of **old**. **Look**, I am about to do something **new**; even now it is coming. **Do you not see it?** Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

The old and new are incompatible.

Tear; not match; burst; spill; be ruined

We prefer the old and do not "see" or not "want" the new (v. 39).

God bringing of "new" is aimed at us ... becoming new and being renewed.

1) Instead of asking, "What's **new? (in terms of season); we need to ask, "What's **new**? (in terms of **us**).**

- a) **Identity/self-awareness**
- b) **Perspective**
- c) **Understanding of God**
- d) **Character; Christ-likeness**

2) Which **Jesus**? → **incompatible** & **new**

Jesus: get me out of hell or make me new?

Jesus: a better life or my life?

Jesus: self-esteem or self-denial?

What's New @ RBCC?

- Not new programs or # growth
- Being renewed ...
 - Holy God
 - Holy dissatisfaction
 - Holy hunger

{come up one at a time}

Incompatible → **Destructive** (syncretism)

Consumers: convenience and cost

Abundant life: excitement, pleasure & prosperity

Identity Idolatry

Individuals & Tribes

Owners

My (little) sins & respectable goodness

3) Are we willing to **subtract** for the purpose of **addition** and **multiplication** ?

Luke 5:27-28

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, "**Follow Me.**" So, leaving everything **behind**, he got up and began to **follow Him.**

Today's **blessings** are often not in **old places** .

New **now** is better than new **later** and makes **later better** .