

Luke 5:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

Analysis

Why do disciples of John fast oft likewise Pharisees but thine eat drink. John disciples ascetic practice. Fast nēsteuousin abstain from food. Oft pykna frequently regular. Likewise homoiōs similarly. Pharisees religious fasting. But de contrast. Thine soi your disciples. Eat drink normal activities. Question challenges Jesus disciples lack of fasting. Jesus response bridegroom presence changes everything (vv. 34-35). Joy replaces mourning when Christ is present. After His departure they will fast. Reformed theology distinguishes old covenant preparation from new covenant fulfillment. Kingdom has come in Christ changes worship practice.

Historical Context

Fasting was regular Jewish practice. John disciples continued. Pharisees fasted twice weekly. Jesus disciples did not fast while He was present. Not that fasting wrong but inappropriate during celebration. Jesus is bridegroom His presence is wedding feast. After ascension early church practiced fasting (Acts 13:2). But fasting is means not end. Can become empty ritual. Reformation recovered proper understanding fasting is spiritual discipline not meritorious work. Modern church some neglect fasting others make it legalistic requirement. Balance needed.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does bridegroom analogy teach about appropriate times for fasting versus feasting?
2. How should Christians practice fasting as discipline without making it legalistic requirement?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	εἶπον	πρὸς	αὐτόν	Διατί	οἱ
the disciples	And	they said	unto	him	Why	the disciples
G3588	G1161	G2036	G4314	G846	G1302	G3588
μαθηταὶ	Ἰωάννου	νηστεύουσιν	πυκνὰ	καὶ	δεήσεις	
the disciples	of John	do	often	and	prayers	
G3101	G2491	G3522	G4437	G2532	G1162	
ποιοῦνται	ὁμοίως	καὶ	οἱ	οἱ	Φαρισαίων	
make	likewise	and	the disciples	the disciples	of the Pharisees	
G4160	G3668	G2532	G3588	G3588	G5330	
οἱ	δὲ	σοὶ	ἐσθίουσιν	καὶ	πίνουσιν	
the disciples	And	thine	eat	and	drink	
G3588	G1161	G4674	G2068	G2532	G4095	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 18:12 (Parallel theme): I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

