

Luke 5:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

Analysis

No man puts new wine into old bottles else new wine will burst bottles wine be spilled bottles shall perish. Parable continued. New wine neos oinos unfermented still fermenting. Old bottles askous palaious old wineskins animal skins. Will burst rhēxei tear rupture. Wine spilled ekcheithēsetai wasted. Bottles perish apollyntai destroyed. Both lost. New wine requires new wineskins. Flexible container for expanding wine. Old brittle wineskins cannot hold new wine. Jesus teaching gospel requires new structures. Cannot contain in old rigid system. Reformed theology sees this as new covenant requiring new forms. Church not merely reformed synagogue but new creation.

Historical Context

Wineskins stretched by fermentation became brittle. New wine still fermenting expands bursts old wineskins. Both wine and skin lost. Application Jesus teaching demands new structures. Christianity developed worship forms distinct from synagogue. Lord Day not Sabbath. Communion not Passover. Baptism not circumcision. Continuity yes but new expression. Reformation Protestant worship forms differed from Roman Catholic. Not that forms salvific but appropriate expression matters. Modern church must balance honoring tradition with cultural relevance. Unchanging gospel expressed in culturally appropriate forms.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does new wine in new wineskins teach about need for new structures to contain new covenant gospel?
2. How should church balance maintaining biblical essentials with adapting forms to culture?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οὐδεὶς βάλλει οῖνος νέος εἰς ἀσκοὶ παλαιούς· εἰ
And no man putteth wine new into bottles old G1487
G2532 G3762 G906 G3631 G3501 G1519 G779 G3820

δὲ μήγε, ῥήξει ὁ νέος οῖνος τοὺς ἀσκοὶ καὶ αὐτὸς
G1161 G3361 will burst G3588 new wine G3588 bottles And G846
G4486 G3501 G3631 G779 G2532

ἐκχυθήσεται καὶ οἱ ἀσκοὶ ἀπολοῦνται.
be spilled And G3588 bottles shall perish
G1632 G2532 G779 G622

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:83 (Parallel theme): For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy statutes.

Joshua 9:13 (Parallel theme): And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.

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