

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	οἶνος	νέος	εἰς	ἄσκοι	παλαιούς·	εἰ	
And	no man	putteth	wine	new	into	bottles	old		G1487
G2532	G3762	G906	G3631	G3501	G1519	G779	G3820		
δὲ	μήγε,	ρήξει	ὁ	νέος	οἶνος	τοὺς	ἄσκοι	καὶ	αὐτὸς
G1161	G3361	will burst	G3588	new	wine	G3588	bottles	And	G846
		G4486		G3501	G3631		G779	G2532	
ἐκχυθήσεται	καὶ	οἱ	ἄσκοι	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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