

Mark 2:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.

Analysis

Jesus extends the new-versus-old contrast: 'No man putteth new wine into old bottles.' New wine, still fermenting, produces gas that expands containers. Old wineskins, already stretched, lack flexibility and burst under pressure. This illustrates the gospel's dynamic, transformative power that can't be contained in old covenant forms. The 'new wine' represents the Holy Spirit's energizing presence. The 'new bottles' represent new covenant structures—faith community not bound by ceremonial law but characterized by Spirit-indwelling, faith in Christ, and mission to all nations. Reformed theology emphasizes that the gospel creates new people requiring new forms.

Historical Context

Wine storage in first-century Palestine used leather wineskins from goats or sheep. Fresh skins were supple and expandable; aged skins became brittle. Jesus' teaching challenged the assumption that Messiah would simply restore old covenant Judaism. The early church's separation from Judaism (synagogue to church, Saturday to Sunday worship, circumcision to baptism) enacted this principle. Church history warns against fossilizing gospel structures into new legalism.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What 'old wineskins' might you be clinging to that prevent the Spirit's fresh work?
2. How can the church honor biblical authority while remaining flexible in cultural methods?
3. What traditions have you elevated to the same level as Scripture, and how does this hinder gospel ministry?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----------|----------|------------|---------|----------|-------------|----------------|-------|---------|
| καὶ | οὐδεὶς | βάλλει | οἶνον | νέον | εἰς | ἄσκοὺς | παλαιούς· | | |
| And | no man | putteth | the wine | new | into | bottles | old | | |
| G2532 | G3762 | G906 | G3631 | G3501 | G1519 | G779 | G3820 | | |
| εἰ | δὲ | μή | ῥήσσει | ὁ | οἶνον | ὁ | νέον | τοὺς | ἄσκοὺς |
| G1487 | G1161 | G3361 | doth burst | G3588 | the wine | G3588 | new | G3588 | bottles |
| | | | G4486 | | G3631 | | G3501 | | G779 |
| καὶ | ὁ | οἶνον | ἐκχεῖται, | καὶ | οἱ | ἄσκοὺς | ἀπόλοῦνται | | |
| And | G3588 | the wine | is spilled | And | G3588 | bottles | will be marred | | |
| G2532 | | G3631 | G1632 | G2532 | | G779 | G622 | | |
| ἀλλὰ | οἶνον | νέον | εἰς | ἄσκοὺς | καινοὺς | βλητέον | | | |
| but | the wine | new | into | bottles | new | must be put | | | |
| G235 | G3631 | G3501 | G1519 | G779 | G2537 | G992 | | | |

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.

Matthew 9:17 (Parallel theme): Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

Psalms 119:80 (Parallel theme): Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

Job 32:19 (Parallel theme): Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent; it is ready to burst like new bottles.

Joshua 9:4 (Parallel theme): They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up;

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.