

November 9, 2025 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

“The Bridegroom We Don’t See” – Mark 2:18-22

1. Jesus identifies Himself as the Bridegroom (v. 19), a title the Old Testament reserves for Yahweh. What does this claim tell us about Jesus' divine authority, and why should the presence of the Bridegroom transform our default posture toward God from one of somber duty to one of celebratory joy?
2. Jesus mentions that the new, unshrunk cloth and the new wine demand fresh wineskins (v. 21-22). Theologically, what do the new wine and the fresh wineskins represent?
3. The Pharisees practiced extra fasts (twice a week) beyond the Law to try and force God's fulfillment. In your own life, what are your modern-day equivalents of "extra fasts"—those performance metrics (like Bible reading frequency, church service, or political fervor) that you might use to achieve self-justification or "spiritual snobbery"?
4. The sermon identified the fig leaf of Perfect Piety (faking joy). How does the self-righteous pursuit of fulfillment lead to a fear of vulnerability, and what is the specific "unspoken bargain" you make with God when you try to earn your worth?
5. Jesus is "taken away" (v. 20) in an allusion to His substitutionary sacrifice. How does the cross shatter the religious mindset of duty and reorient your heart toward grace? Describe the "great exchange" in your own words.
6. The Gospel declares that you are no longer a frustrated pharisee but a wedding guest. How does anchoring your identity completely in the Bridegroom's fulfillment—rather than your own performance—change how you view past spiritual failures or future struggles on the horizon?
7. The Holy Spirit rewires your desire from self-justification to relationship and joy in Christ. Reflect on one of the sermon's examples (Parenting, Quiet Time, or Church Member): How does resting in Christ's already-accomplished fulfillment empower you to choose a joyful, grateful response over an anxious, or even an angry one?
8. The ultimate goal is to feast on Christ's provision, not too fast for approval. What is one specific, practical step you can take this week to deliberately abandon an "old pattern of religious performance" and instead embrace a grace-motivated action?