



# New Wine In New Bottles

**“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” (Mark 2:22).**

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**“But new wine must be put into**

**new bottles; and both are preserved” (Luke 5:38).**

Illustrations provide powerful imageries for effectively communicating gospel messages. In this parable Jesus continued His teaching on the theme of the incompatibility of the old with the new by using the illustration of new wine in old bottles. At the time of His teaching, wine bottles were made of animal skins. Therefore, an old wine bottle is worn out and weak, and therefore cannot contain the pressure emitted by new wine. The result - both the wine and the bottle are lost. The message is clear: the power of the new life in Christ, cannot be contained in an old untransformed life; and any attempt to do so will result in damage to the old life as well as loss of the new life. Through regeneration, God turns an old life into a new one that is fit to retain the new life of God. **“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work”** (2 Timothy 2:21).

**“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”** (Matthew 9:17).

**“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. 38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. 39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better”** (Luke 5:37-39).

We learn from this parable that:

- 1) What natural human being would not do, based on their earthly knowledge, some religious people foolishly try to do. No wonder Luke 16:8 says that “the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light”. Note these phrases from our text. **“Neither do men** put new wine into old bottles” (Matthew 9:17); **“And no man** putteth

new wine into old bottles” (Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37). Why would ‘spiritual’ people try to do what natural people would not even think of doing? We must realise that faith does not call for the annihilation of our God given faculties of reasoning and senses.

- 2) We cannot put new wine into old bottle and expect to have either of them.
- 3) Old wine bottles can carry old wine that has lost all its fervour.
- 4) The fervour from new wine is powerful enough to destroy old wine bottles. Note how Jesus rendered this truth in another context: “Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder” (Luke 20:18).
- 5) New wine bottles possess enough strength to withstand the fervour from new wine.
- 6) The admonition that “new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved” (Luke 6:38); provides a guiding principle that salvation of the soul must precede baptism of the Holy Ghost or any attempt to make some one a Christian by works; because works without grace will both ruin the worker and make the works unacceptable to God.
- 7) Luke 6:39 points out the danger of lack of exposure. A person who is not exposed to the things of God may not be able to appreciate their benefits. The 12 disciples at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7) were saved for many years (estimates of 20 years), but were not baptised in the Holy Spirit because they were not exposed to that teaching. Right exposure leads to possession. Do not bury yourself alive, in ignorance!