

# New Wine

DISCOVERING THE MANY FLAVORS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH



## SERIES OVERVIEW: New Wine

*"Transforming Tradition: Holiness"*

Preacher: Pastor Dave Swaim

February 17, 2019

[Series Sermon Recordings](#)

[Discipleship Resources](#)

## SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Note cards (or paper) and pens.

## QUESTIONS?

Email Abby

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW TO USE: *The three sections below (opening, sermon content questions, and application) represent the three connections we emphasize at Highrock: connecting to **God's People**, connecting to **God Personally** and connecting to **God's Purposes**. Select at least one question from each section or create questions that are more specific to your group.*

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## WEEKLY CHECK IN

Use a few minutes at the beginning of your time to follow up on any action items shared from last week. Was there a **next step or application** challenge that they took on this past week? What did they learn about themselves and following Jesus?

## CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Choose ONE of these that fits your group, or modify it so that it will fit your group better. These can make great **opening questions** or **ending questions**. If you have had a really in-depth conversation, ending on a light note can help transition to concluding your time Together on a less intense question.

1. What is something you have worked hard to be good at? An instrument, learning a second language, a sport, a skill or trade... what drove you to desire to be great at that thing? Were there times you wanted to quit practicing?
2. Who are people of faith whose life you are inspired by and see as worth imitating?

3. Describe something you originally did not want to try, but when you did, you were surprised how good it was.

## SERMON QUESTIONS

Use a **couple of the questions** below or make up your own. You can always begin with: "Do you have any questions about what you heard in the sermon this week?" Or, "What stood out to you from the Pastor's sermon?"

1. Choose one or two of these to discuss to begin your discussion on Holiness: What is your definition or view of holiness? When you hear the word "holiness," what assumptions come to your mind? What has been your past experience with the Christian tradition of holiness?
  - a. How do you see Jesus being holy?
    - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"But first we need to understand what it is. Holiness is not thinking you're better than anyone. Holiness is not about lists of dos and don'ts and nit-picking about the rules. Those things are self-righteousness, which is the opposite of holiness. What's a holy person really like? Well, Jesus was the holiest person who ever lived, and yet he was bursting with joy and overflowing with love - which should be the first clue that most of us have misunderstood what holiness is."*
2. How do you dream of being different than you are?
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"All of us have deficiencies and tendencies that we're embarrassed about. All of us dream of being different than we are. Beyond the superficial things like wishing to be taller, richer or more attractive, all of us have deeper things we wish were different about us."*
3. Share how you experiences this tension between what you want to be like and how you actually behave.
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"And that's how many of you feel about the things we ask you to do on Sundays, or you read about in scripture. forgive that person who sinned against me? Impossible! Not get enraged when i don't get my way? I can't. Give away 10% or more of my income? Ridiculous! Reconcile with my parent or spouse? You haven't met them! Spend my vacations, or maybe my career helping people in need? That's just not realistic. Bless people who persecute me? That's never going to happen! Pray and trust God when I'm fearful about the future? Is that even possible? We want to do these things, we've tried, but we can't. We don't want to be like everyone else, but we can't help it!"*
4. How does this understanding of holiness (below) compare to your own? What is appealing to you about it? What resistance do you have towards it?
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"The word holiness simply means "different". It doesn't mean superior or holier than thou, it means taking a different path than others. Living a different way. And that should seem appealing already, because these days people frequently complain that their lives feel meaningless and miserable. Despite our unprecedented affluence, depression, divorce, loneliness and even suicide are tragically on the rise! I'm not sure why we'd want to follow the crowd or pop culture, because they don't seem to like where their lives are leading them! Despite the pressure we feel to conform, maybe it's worth trying something other than what isn't working for everyone else. Holiness is the freedom to do something different. Beyond that, holiness is the freedom to become something different, so that I can do things I can't do today."*
5. Is there something Jesus says that seems impossible or unrealistic to you?
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"The Apostle Paul, who by all accounts used to be an angry, self-righteous jerk discovered that when the Holy Spirit of Jesus is inside us, the fruit that will come out of our lives include "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We look at that list and think - that sounds great! We'd love to be like that - but we've tried - and we can't. I mean, we can for a little while, but then someone frustrates my plan, wounds my pride, has a need that's more than I want to give, or says something offensive, and I*

*go right back to responding in the same self-promoting self-protective way everyone else does. Doing what Jesus does is impossible."*

6. Have you ever felt like the commands of Jesus are a burden? How so?
  - a. Though they might challenge us, how do Jesus commands offer freedom and rest for the weary?
    - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"Jesus thought that living HIS way was not something reserved for spiritual superstars, but a welcome relief for those weary from trying to live life on their own. Jesus thinks it's easy... but walking on water was easy for Him! **What about the REST of us?** Actually even His all too-human disciple, John, agreed that: (1 John 5:3) His 'commands are not burdensome.'"*
7. Read the scripture passage at the end of this resource. When have you experienced God's or Jesus' presence in a season when you were weary or heavily burdened?
  - a. What was it like to experience Jesus in that season? How did God receive your burdens?
  - b. What does it look like to trust A holy God to receive you even when you don't feel "holy" or worthy? Where do we see God promising to love us unconditionally?
8. How do you feel about the word practice? What do you practice in your desire to follow Jesus.
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"Someone might argue that he doesn't want to learn to practice like Jordan, but to play like him. I want to be able to make the shots from the three point line just before the buzzer, I want to be able to fake out three guys while winking at photographers. But the only way Jordan was able to do those things in pressure situations is that he practiced them so many times that they'd become natural for him. Normal."*
9. Where does Chesterton's quote ring true for your life? Or for the patterns in your closest circle of Christian friends?
  - a. How does the idea of giving up control and independence sit with you? What do you imagine God could do with in you if you were to let go of these things which Dave is talking about? What might it make space for?
  - b. How or in what ways do you long to be transformed or get "unstuck"?
    - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"Learning how to live from Jesus can change our lives and enable us to bless others because it can make what's now impossible become easy. Doesn't that sound wonderful!! So why don't most Christians do this? Because there's a cost to this kind of discipleship. You don't get to do everything you want anymore. You're going to lose some control some independence. Following Jesus is going to change the way you spend your time and money in ways that may not be immediately appealing. Following Jesus means you don't always get to follow your feelings. Sometimes serving God will get in the way of serving yourself. And that's why fewer and fewer Americans want to do it. **G.K Chesterton lamented that "The Christian life has not been tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult, and left untried."***
10. How do you respond to this challenge by Dallas Willard? What are some of the spiritual practices you observe in Jesus' life?
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"Dallas Willard writes "It would be AMUSING, if it were not so tragic, to contemplate how the followers of great religious leaders devise ways and rationalizations for not engaging in the practices their leaders and forerunners found necessary." You can't live like Jesus or love like Jesus if you refuse to learn from Jesus."*
11. How does this redefining of "disciplines" open your heart to God's provision and pathway towards holiness?
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"The word "disciplines" comes from the word disciple, which means to learn. These practices help us learn from Jesus how to live, feel, respond and love, while also allowing us to lean on God's power rather than our own so that I don't need to control situations, because I know that my heavenly Father is in control. As we do this, increasingly we will start to see what Jesus sees, know what Jesus knows, feel what Jesus feels, forgive like*

*Jesus forgives, love like Jesus loves. Then doing what Jesus would do in difficult situations will be easy, because it's what we've been practicing in small ways a thousand times."*

12. First take a moment to summarize this key point together--God's part and your part. Then describe how you have seen this interplay at work in your life or where you sense God might be inviting you to experience it.
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"Jesus told a parable in **Mark 4 (26-27)** about a farmer who sowed some seed on the ground. "Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he doesn't know how." His point is that there's a part in our growth that only God can do - we don't even understand how it works exactly, but we have a part to play also. Like the farmer, has to till the soil and spread the seed, we have to engage in certain practices and patterns that enable us to receive what God wants to give us. Our effort isn't enough on it's own, but is still essential. The holiness tradition invites us into those practices and patterns that make us available for God to transform us."*

## APPLICATION/S

1. Are there ways you resonate with Pastor Dave's assessment? How might you awaken to God's invitation to follow Jesus decide to live differently?
  - a. What is your desire for God right now? Where are you wanting to be like Jesus?
    - i. **Sermon Reference:** *"Church, I love you deeply. So can I say honestly to you this morning that some of you live mediocre lives. Even some of you that the world celebrates as successful. But you know that something's missing. You've been stuck for years or decades in the same struggles, and don't know how to break free. You may be a "Christian", but you're not experiencing God's power in your life! Some of you may be praying after the sermon on the charismatic tradition that God will show up and do something miraculous and new in you. And that's a great prayer! But some of you are not experiencing Jesus because you're not actually following Him!"*
2. Take some time this week to look into the origins of the holiness movement. What strikes you about where this tradition comes from? What about this tradition do you think could shed new light on how you engage with God and with others?
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"In fact, the 2nd Great Awakening, a religious revival that swept the United States in the early 1800s can be traced back in part to Phoebe Palmer, a woman who had discovered holiness at a point when her own Christian life felt flat and unfulfilling, and through it God transformed her into a person so obviously full of life and full of Jesus that everyone else wanted to be like her. Truly holy people are not dead legalists, they're distinctively joyful and alive. One of the most famous biographies of her is entitled "The Beauty of Holiness". Her life was so attractive to others."*
3. Read the reference below, how does this challenge or invite you to live differently? How are you invited to see others differently? How might your perspective on your day, goals, values be shifted?
  - a. **Sermon Reference:** *"I want you to start living like God is real. I want you to start living like Jesus did. I want you to have peace that doesn't make sense to other people. I want you to have goals that not all of your neighbors share. I want you to have a faith that changes you, and allows you to experience life to the full. That is what it means to be holy. It means different than the world is used to seeing. I've seen many of you are that way already and God is using you to bring life and hope to others."*
4. Resources for discovering spiritual disciplines:
  - a. Spiritual Disciplines Handbook, Pastor Adele Calhoun
  - b. Sacred Rhythms, Ruth Haley Barton,

- c. Celebration of Discipline, Richard foster
- d. Sacred Pathways, Gary Thomas

## CLOSING

Summarize the key points of your discussion and encourage people to **share one action step** they could take during the next week based on what they have shared. **Take time to pray together.** Write those down and start next week by checking in with how it went, or better yet, check in during the week!

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## RESOURCES

### SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

#### Matthew 11:28-30

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

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### SCRIPTURE STUDY: 5Cs

If you are interested in studying the scripture more deeply, one way to study scripture is through using the 5 Cs. Read through the passage and move through each C. The goal is not to move through them quickly but to really consider each section. If you wanted to study the passage together, you, as the leader should take some time beforehand to complete the Cs and it can be helpful to have group members come prepared with the first 3 already considered. Then, as a group you can briefly talk over some of the points and then have a longer conversation about curiosities and conclusions. This study tool will be posted within all of the discussion questions.

- **Context:** What is the literary context of the passage? What comes before? After? Context within whole book? Relation to main idea of section, book, testament, whole Bible?
- **Christ:** How is Jesus revealed here? If in OT, prefiguration, typology, prophesy, implications for Christ's person and work? How is he needed, anticipated, fulfilled?
- **Crux:** What is the main idea? Try and find a section of the text that states it and have reasons for why that is the main idea? How do the other points support it?
- **Curiosities:** What is surprising about this text? Controversial? Mysterious? Shocking?
- **Conclusions:** What are the implications for our lives? Application? How do we think, feel, and act in light of this text?