

Sermon: “Starting the New Year Well”

Matthew 9:14-17 (page 814 in pew Bible)

I. Not just “WWJD”, but how about “WDJT”?

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Matthew Chapter 9 tells us a lot about Jesus’ thoughts!

- **Matthew 9:1-8; healing a paralytic**
- **Matthew 9:9-13; calling Matthew the tax collector and eating with “sinners”**
- **Matthew 9:14-15; questioned about fasting**
- **Matthew 9:18-26; the healing of the blood-afflicted woman and raising a little girl from the dead**
- **Matthew 9:27-31; giving sight to two blind men**
- **Matthew 9:32-34; driving out a demon from a mute man so he can speak**

Summary: Matthew 9:35 “And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

Jesus gives the explanation: Matthew 9:16-17 “No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

II. The Pharisees: from religiously right to rigidly wrong.

A. Their fierce opposition

B. Christ’s futuristic preparation

“You cannot put the new wine of a global church into the old wineskins of Jewish forms.”

1. Ritualistic changes of form

2. Relational changes

III. Lakeside: Being Presbyterians (not “Phariseeterians”) 😊

A. Some things must never change!

B. Other things...? Beware of unbiblical rigidity and miss what God is doing.