



New Wine | Chad Bruegman | 4.22.18

LG Weekly

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you had to describe yourself using three words, it would be...

SHARE

Welcome to our teaching series, Just Getting Started.

On the cross Jesus boldly proclaimed, "It is finished." As followers of Jesus, the work of the cross is complete, our sins forgiven and we have become new creations. As a result of the perfect work of Jesus, now we can boldly believe what the apostle Paul says when he writes, "the old is gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The work on the cross is finished but God is just getting started with us.

Hebrews 10:14 tells us, "For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

Even though we have been made perfect, day by day the gospel continues to make us more holy. God is working in and through us, by the work of the Holy Spirit. Theologically this is

called progressive sanctification, where we are becoming more like Jesus throughout our lives as disciples of Christ. So don't be discouraged with the ups and downs of life--God is not giving up on us. He is a faithful Father who promises that He will finish what He has started (Philippians 1:6).

God develops our faith, purifies our motives and shapes our gifts for His glory. He is just getting started with that anger issue, addiction problem, impatience, envy, pride, or lust. You can name a struggle but God has given you a different name...son and daughter. The story is far from over and God desires more than anything for you to experience freedom in the finished work of the cross. He is just getting started.

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power." 1 Corinthians 4:20

Read Luke 5:33-39

In Luke 5, the talk of wineskins comes directly after the conversation of patching garments. Both of these conversations were directed towards the Pharisees who were angry and openly criticizing Jesus because He was associating with the sinners, the tax collectors, and throwing parties for the "undeserving."

Jesus came with something completely new. It was always God's intention that the Messiah would come and perfectly fulfill all that was necessary. And by doing so, seemingly, it was breaking all the rules and regulations of what the Pharisees knew and held so tightly. Jesus' teaching couldn't be added to their old wineskins. What Jesus was explaining to them through this parable was that they needed to get rid of their legalistic and self-righteous theology and start with a fresh wineskin--to start anew with the gospel of grace.

In our own lives, we may find that we try to add Jesus to what we already know and believe. However, in perfectly fulfilling the law, Jesus began to do something completely new that could not be meshed together with the old. Because once we take that first drink of grace, we'll never want to go back to drink the old.

Until we realize how we are trying to add Jesus to our lives, we'll be just as the Pharisees; confused and unmoved by the life-changing, completely transforming grace of Jesus Christ. He has not come to patch our garments or our old wineskins, but He has come to put His

glory on display as Jesus perfectly fulfills all that is necessary and begins a new work in the world.

GROW

Read 1 Peter 5:6-10

In his sermon this week, Chad pointed out that although Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8) we are not. As we go through life, we continue to grow, learn, and change. It is one of the beautiful truths of what it means to be human. Often, the older we get, the harder it is to remember this. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking we have God figured out. As if somehow, a few short decades are enough to fully comprehend an infinite God. This is mentality one of the great threats to experiencing growth as we continue to walk with Jesus.

God is infinite. Which means we should go into every day with the mentality that we are just getting started! Humility is the critical ingredient for embracing this mindset. If we want to keep growing and learning, it starts with being humble. The pride of believing we have it all figured out is the thing that cuts us off from the source. There is then, a direct correlation between our humility and our capacity to know and understand God's beauty.

Several times throughout Scripture, the writers talk about the importance of humility. Peter's first letter hinges on it. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6). This is Peter talking. The one who spent three years walking side by side with Jesus. The one Jesus picked to take the reins and begin the early church. If anyone has reason to boast about how much he has seen and done, it's Peter. But through all his journeys, his main takeaway is just how vital humility is to learn how to walk with Jesus. According to Peter, it is of utmost importance!

What does it look like for you to grow in humility this week?

What is one area of your life you feel God is inviting you to be humble in? What is one practical step you can take towards humility this week?

M O V E

Read Hosea 10:12

This weekend Chad talked about the importance of plowing ground in preparation for something beautiful and new. Plowing prepares the soil to receive the seed, but it also tears away the weeds so there is no competition for that seed to get the nutrients it needs to flourish.

As God has come to make all things new, He is ever ready to break up the unplowed ground in our hearts. He desires to till the soil of our hearts, so we may experience the new that He wants to deeply plant within us. The plowing is the letting go and allowing God to uproot the weeds that are stealing all nutrients from our hearts.

The key to loving others well is understanding what His grace did for us. The more we dwell on His grace, the greater our capacity to love and serve others becomes!

As Christ followers, the challenge is to constantly grow in love. Loving your family, your friends, your neighbors AND loving your enemies. But first it begins in our own hearts. What are some weeds that may need to be uprooted so you may then love others just as Christ has loved you?

Who in your life do you feel God is calling you to love better this week?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. Ask God to reveal to you the weeds in your life and that He will place in you a humble courage to allow Him to begin tilling the unplowed soil of your heart. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

TO GO

"Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

— C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

