

Not Pleasing to Us Twenty-second Week in Ordinary Time Friday, September 4, 2015
8:15 AM Col 1:15-20; **Lk 5:33-39** (People don't want to embrace what is really new.)

“And no one who has been drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’”

This whole passage is really about how **people don't want to embrace what is really new**, that there is something in people that always clings to the past, to past ways of doing things, thinking, feeling. Jesus is saying, well, what is old is really now over; it's passé. Something new is coming, and we need to welcome it; but people don't want to welcome it.

He used the example of John the Baptist and the disciples of the Pharisees who had a certain way of going about penitential practice, devotional practice, doing good works, leading a prayerful life. And his point is, well, that's just trying to fix with inadequate means what is really profoundly wrong. What it is trying to do is patch a garment that is falling apart with **a new little patch**, and that's simply not even good strategy. This is a radical statement; Jesus is being radical here. **He is saying the ways of the past don't work**—the ways of the past don't work. Human wisdom may have some value to it, but it's not that great. **What is needed is a whole new garment, but no one wants it.**

He says, “Anyone who drinks old wine likes the old wine, doesn't want new wine.” Well, that's true. **New wine doesn't taste so good.** Wine has to be seasoned for a while. New skins don't smell so good. They have to be seasoned too. So there is something unpleasant about all this newness, this new wine, new skins—they smell. New wine tastes rough. Nonetheless, that's what he is all about. He is about something totally new: little difficult to take, not so pleasant, really challenging, not pleasing at all. That's the point. **What Jesus has come to bring is not pleasing to us. It isn't intended to be pleasing to us, but it's what we need!**