

The literary structure of Mark 2:18-22

- A. The fasting of other disciples:** ¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting.
- B. People question Jesus:** And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"
- B¹. Jesus questions the people:** ¹⁹And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.
- A¹. Jesus' disciples fasting:** ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

Two parallel parables:

No one: ²¹No one

The new and the old: sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment.

If: If he does,

The new and the old: the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.

No one: ²²And no one

The new and the old: puts new wine into old wineskins.

If: If he does,

The new and the old: the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins.

Conclusion: But new wine is for fresh wineskins.