



May 15, 2022

“Behold I am Doing a New Thing”

Luke 5:33-39

Context and Behavior

Jesus’ disciples were not fasting like John’s disciples & Pharisees’ disciples: 5:33

Remember Jesus’ teaching on fasting in secret? See Matthew 6:16-18

The metaphor of the bridegroom and wedding guests: 5:34-35

Behavior only makes sense in context

Examples of in-context and out-of-context behavior

When a new context develops, appropriate behavior must follow

Two word pictures to reinforce the ruin that happens when trying to force old on new

The tearing and mismatched patch; the bursting wineskins: 5:36-37

Both the old that is trying to be preserved and the new coming into being are wrecked

The point: new wine in new wineskins (appropriate behavior to the new context)

Jesus observes that people have the strong tendency to prefer the old: 5:38-39

Why? It is uncomfortable, hard, strange, disorienting to step into a new paradigm

Behold I Am Doing a New Thing

God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow: Hebrews 13:8; 1:12

Unchanging in character and commitments

This kind of immutability requires adapting to a changing object to remain immutable

The steadfast God brings forward new things to preserve His old promises: Isa 43:18-19

The incarnation of Jesus was a new thing that the religious leaders could not understand

Not new as in a different track altogether, but new as in next, as in fulfillment: Matt 5:17

When are we in danger of missing God’s next new thing?

Discerning the New Thing

Not all new things are good just because they are new

How can we tell if a new thing is God’s doing?

We marinate in the Bible to gain our sense of congruence

We pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal, convict, clear up, convince, guide

We look for life-signs: John 10:10; 1 John 5:12

Reflections on Images of a Shepherd through Art History



“Shepherd Playing a Flute” (1644), Nicolaes Berchem, Dutch, 1620-1683, Art Period: Dutch Golden Age

- What feelings does this painting evoke in you?
- What do you like about this painting? What don't you like about it?

2.



“A Shepherd and His Flock of Sheep” (1885), Camille Pissarro, Danish-French, 1830-1903, Art Period: Impressionism

- What feelings does this painting evoke in you?
- What do you like about this painting? What don't you like about it?
- Do you prefer this painting or the previous one?

3.



Untitled lithograph, (1959), Pablo Picasso, Spanish, 1881-1973, Art Period: Cubism, Surrealism

- What feelings does this painting evoke in you?
- What do you like about this painting? What don't you like about it?
- Which of the three paintings do you like the most? The least?