September 6, 2019

Scripture

The scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus, "The disciples of John the Baptist fast often and offer prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but yours eat and drink." Jesus answered them, "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days." And he also told them a parable. "No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one. Otherwise, he will tear the new and the piece from it will not match the old cloak. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins. And no one who has been drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus uses two common ideas in order to teach the hard-hearted, know it all, religious authorities a lesson about His ministry in the Kingdom of God: One never sews a piece of unbleached, new cloth onto an old garment, it will neither look right nor fit properly. Pouring new, fermenting wine will cause an old wineskins to expand and even explode. New wine must be poured into new wineskins which have the capacity to expand and stretch.
The religious leaders' hearts were stuck in the past. They were status quo thinkers and practitioners. While Jesus did not come to eliminate the teachings and laws of the past (and He says so explicitly in Matthew 5:17), He came to show people how to truly live what they professed to believe. To accept His teaching, His way, meant to open one’s heart widely otherwise it might very well break.

Food for your Journey

"Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way." --Gen. George Patton, U.S. Army (1885-1945).

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, Make me humble and in so doing, may my mind and heart be completely open to You at all times and in all things. Amen