



The Chance to Do It Right

Date: January 17, 2021

Home Training Lesson Three: The Ability to Recognize the New Wine of Wisdom

Review Annual Text: Mark 2:21–22, (NIV)

21 “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, **the new piece will pull away from the old**, making the tear worse. 22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, **the wine will burst the skins**, and both **the wine and the wineskins will be ruined**. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”

Note: Three Amazing Observations That Should Concern Any Leader

1. The new will **pull away** from the old (Mark 2:21)
2. The wine will **burst** the skins (v22)
3. The wine and wine skins will be **ruined** (v22)

Statement: Things are **ruined** when we do not embrace change and **pull away** from old approaches.

Question: What will you not pull away from that will eventually burst and be ruined?

I. The Temptation to Be Unwise (Matthew 4:5-7, NIV)

Statement: Jesus insisted on avoiding unnecessary **risk** (even in the name of religion)

- 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand **on the highest point of the temple**. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “**throw yourself down**. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘**Do not put the Lord your God to the test.**’”

Two Questions

1. Have you ever been tempted to **throw yourself down**? (Psalms 91:11)
Note: Jesus was asked to do something that could harm to him
2. Have you ever been tempted to **make God prove himself** to you?
3. Have you ever been tempted to believe **God will save you if you are intentionally foolish**?



II. The Key to Making Wise Choices: Listening (Matthew 7:24–27, NIV)

- 24 “Therefore everyone who **hears these words of mine and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But **everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Conclusion:

III. An Historic Example of Bad Choices (In a World That Refused to Listen)

Fareed Zakaria gives an example in his book, “Ten Lessons from a Post Pandemic World,” that illustrated how Europe ignored wise council and saw millions die in World War I

- Norman Angell’s best-selling book, *The Great Illusion*, argued that the major European countries had become so interdependent that starting a war would evidently be self-defeating.
- Angell was right that war would prove costly and counterproductive, but Europe decided to run the experiment, nonetheless. Four blood-soaked years later, 20 million people had died and Europe’s intertwined economy lay in ruins. Four vast multinational empires—the Russian, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman (*Turkish*), and German—had collapsed. The war set off economic and political whirlwinds, bringing communism to Russia and fascism (*dictatorship*) to Germany and Italy. Then came the Depression and another, even bloodier world war. By many measures, it took some sixty years for global trade and travel to return to the peaks they reached before World War I.

Source Fareed Zakaria: *Ten Lessons from a Post Pandemic World* (Chapter 8, Page 185.)

IV. Five Unwise Decisions Our Nation Has Made Recently

1. The handling of the **pandemic** (We all should have listened and agreed upon a single plan)
2. The handling of the **poor** (We need to create an economy that does not enslave the poor)
3. The handling of **political** differences (We are all in this together)
4. The handling of those in **power** (We should speak truth to power in love; Eph. 4:15)
5. The handling of **truth, even if it hurts your career** (Isaiah 5:20–21): 20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.

Next Time: The New Wine of No (The Ability to Say No)

Read Ahead: Matthew 4:8-11