

Matthew 9:14-17

Intro/Starter

What are some of the most important questions you could ask or be asked?

Bible

Read Matthew 9:14-17.

The Question (v. 14)

What is the question Jesus is asked?

Why might John's disciples have asked Jesus this question?

The Answer (vv. 15-17)

In answering the question Jesus provides three different illustrations from a wedding, a tailor's shop, and a wine cellar ...

From verse 15, what emotion does Jesus link with fasting?

In the context of a wedding, with whom does Jesus identify himself?

Read Isaiah 54:5 and Hosea 2:16-20.

Given what is said in these Old Testament passages, what is so significant about what Jesus is claiming here?

Is this how we picture Jesus? Why/why not?

Why, therefore, is mourning and fasting considered to be inappropriate at this particular time?

Is this the way we think of Jesus' arrival? What might cause us to think differently?

What sombre note does Jesus also sound? What do you think he is referring to?

From verse 16, what is the problem with attaching a new patch on to an old garment?

From verse 17, what is the problem with putting new wine into old wineskins?

In what ways do both of these images relate to Jesus and his ministry?

How might we be in danger of falling into the same error as John's disciples and the Pharisees?

How can we guard ourselves against this danger?