



Chapter & verse – William Young (page 24)

Read Luke 5:33-39, followed by William Young's article.

1. The Pharisees, William Young tells us, dislike Jesus and his disciples for their 'lack of reverence for tradition'. To what extent should Christian practices like prayer and fasting be revered? Are there church traditions that we could do without?
2. William's second paragraph explains that US civil rights protesters used music to 'inject joy into the struggle'. Why might joy be useful in times of struggle? Are there examples from your own life where the two have gone together?
3. William's fourth and fifth paragraphs reference Jesus, an Indian philosopher ('Tradition becomes our security...'), *Fiddler on the Roof* and Mahler, presenting several views about tradition. Which do you agree with? Why?
4. 'You cannot make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them,' says Jesus in the biblical text (verse 34). 'The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.' How do you interpret Jesus' comments?
5. Explaining why Jesus' parable champions 'new wineskins', William argues that 'Jesus is concerned with stretching his friends for the work ahead.' How can Christians be stretched for service today?

For further reflection: '[Jesus] answered them: "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"' Matthew 15:3

Prayer: Father, we remember with thankfulness those who learned your ways in the past and have passed them on to us. Help us, in the everchanging world where we live, to find the paths today that follow your unchanging way. Amen.

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