

HOW CAN ONE KNOW IF HE/SHE IS ON A RELIGIOUS PATH WHICH WOULD LEAD TO ETERNAL RUIN?

Matthew 9:14-17

- I. **THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW CHRIST FOCUS ON EXTERNAL RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY RATHER THAN CHRIST:** Jesus reveals their ritual has no connection to the reality of genuine relationship with Him **(14-15)**
 - A. John's disciples query Jesus concerning His disciple's actions: Why are your disciples feasting rather than fasting like us? (14)
 - B. Jesus unveils their external religious hypocrisy, showing there's no connection between their religious ritual and the reality of Christ (15)
 - 1. True disciples don't mourn (fast) when their with Jesus they feast (15a)
 - 2. Because Jesus is the focus, His true disciples will rightly mourn when He is taken away to the cross (15b)

- II. **THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW CHRIST MUST, IN REPENTANCE, DUMP THEIR ENTIRE SYSTEM OR FACE ETERNAL DESTRUCTION:** Jesus reveals through two parables that you can't add Him to your religious system, otherwise you will experience eternal spiritual ruin **(16-17a)**
 - A. The first illustration: You can't patch the old with the new, it will just get worse (16)

 - B. The second illustration: If you try to put the new in the old both are destroyed (17a)

- III. **The point is: New wine requires new wineskins, thus your old system is completely inadequate and must be trashed in order to receive Christ (17b).**