

Brand New in Every Way (Matthew 9:14-34)

It was brand new in every way. Jesus' message and behavior didn't fit into the religious categories or systems of his day and it doesn't fit into ours either. It didn't kneel to man-made traditions and it most definitely couldn't be contained by them. Matthew 9:14-34 describes the brand-new day Jesus brings with colorful metaphors and extraordinary healings. It leaves you to wrestle with whether or not you will celebrate and go on to participate in the brand-new yourself.

1. A brand-new day that can't be contained (Matthew 9:14-17)**2. Evidence of its arrival** (Matthew 9:18-34)**3. Participating in the brand-new**

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Matthew 9:14-34. What immediate observations stand out to you?
2. In verse 14, the disciples of John the Baptist are confused by a lack of ritual fasting. In the Jewish tradition of that time, fasting was often associated with mourning and the longing for God's intervention. Why does Jesus use "Bridegroom" imagery to answer their question? Read Hosea 2:19-20 and Isaiah 62:5. What was Jesus claiming about his identity?
3. Jesus also uses metaphors of new unshrunk cloth and new wine. Why was it impossible for the "New Day" Jesus brought to simply be a "patch" on the old religious system of the Pharisees?
4. Jesus didn't fit into religious categories then, and he doesn't fit ours either. Which of the "molds" mentioned (Life-Coach, Mascot, Genie, Traditions) do you find yourself most tempted to squeeze Jesus into? Is there an area of your life that Jesus is disrupting – for your good?
5. In Jewish law, touching a dead body or a hemorrhaging woman made a person ceremonially "unclean" What is the significance of Jesus touching both in this passage?
6. The sermon used the imagery of a sunrise - pink and orange splashes that promise a full sun. Daryn also mentioned Bobby, his dear friend, who found hope in the "brand-new day" even while battling a terminal illness. How does the reality that we only see "splashes of color" now (and not yet the full sunrise) help you process "unanswered" prayers in your life?
7. Participation in this brand-new day requires faith. Review the four healings that take place in verses 18-34. Describe the faith expressed in each scene. Which stands out to you and why?
8. What might "pushing through the crowd" look like for you this week? Are there any obstacles (shame, busy schedules, fear of judgment, doubt) that might keep you from reaching for the "fringe of Jesus' garment"? Bring those perceived obstacles to Jesus right now in prayer.

Take a moment to pray individually or as a House Group: Jesus, thank you for the brand-new day you bring. We celebrate it! Break any and every mold I've built around you. I want to live (today!) with the kind of faith demonstrated by the woman who pushed through the crowd to reach you.