

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (ESV)

And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’ ” Luke 5:39 (ESV)

Application

1. **Remember that Jesus is exclusive. Faith in him is the only way to be forgiven and made right with God. We can’t patch him into another religion or our man-made worship. We need to trust in Jesus alone.**

Life Group Questions

1. Have you fasted for medical or spiritual reasons? What was it like?
2. Study these verses to find when fasting is appropriate and why someone would choose to fast. (See 2 Samuel 1:11-12; 1 Samuel 20:34; Nehemiah 9:1-3; Psalm 35:13-14; Acts 13:1-3)
3. What dangers arise when fasting is not voluntarily done in response to a specific need? (See Luke 18:9-14)
4. Have you participated in an inter-faith worship service? What benefits do you see in them?
5. Why is the gospel such an all-or-nothing message refuses to be patched into any another faith, even something as close as the judaism of Jesus’ day?
6. What are the dangers of an inter-faith worship service? What would make you decide against participating? (See Acts 4:12; John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 16:22; 1 Timothy 2:5)
7. In what ways have you patched Jesus into your life and treated him as an accessory to your own man-made religion? Repent of anything the Holy Spirit brings to mind and recommit to exclusively following and trusting Jesus.
8. Rather than self-sacrifice, what are ways can we please God this Christmas season? (See Hosea 6:6; Isaiah 58:3-11)

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 2:18-22 – Jesus Is Exclusive

November 25, 2018

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (ESV)

1. Jesus broke Judaism's man-made rules by feasting when they expected him to be fasting.

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” Mark 2:18 (ESV)

A. What does the Bible teach about fasting?

- There was only one required fast in the law of Moses. It is known as the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16:29-31.
- Other fasts were voluntary, not mandatory. They were usually in repentance for sin or seeking God's help in a time of crisis.
- There were a few other fasts added in later Judaism, like the fast of Purim in Esther 9:31.
- Pharisees required people to fast twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' Luke 18:11–12 (ESV)

B. The Jews of Jesus' day were more interested in looking good in front of other people than in pleasing God.

Giving to the Poor

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. Matthew 6:2 (ESV)

Prayer

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. Matthew 6:5 (ESV)

Fasting

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. Matthew 6:16 (ESV)

C. What kind of sacrifice does God want in our life?

"Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?" Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose

the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Isaiah 58:3–8 (ESV)

2. The Jews of Jesus' day were out-of-step with understanding God's plan.

And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. Mark 2:19–20 (ESV)

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? Isaiah 53:8 (ESV)

3. Jesus didn't come to fix broken religion. He came to replace it.

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins." Mark 2:21–22 (ESV)