

new VESSEL

“And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.” (Luke 5:37-38)

As we continue to develop over the year, God is wanting to do a “new thing,” and for this “new thing,” we will need to be a new vessel for Him to work in and through. When Jesus shared this parable with the crowd, he referred to pouring new wine into an old wineskin.

Wineskins were made from the skin of goats or other animals and sewn together. A new wineskin could accommodate the wine and the gases created through the fermentation process. Pouring new wine into an old wineskin was not feasible because the wineskin would shrink as it dried out and would no longer be able to expand to hold the wine and the gases it created, leading to its bursting, destroying both the wine and the wineskin.

God wants to pour something new into our lives, and for us to receive it and all that comes with it, we must ensure we are in a position to not break under it. Some of us have been living our lives like an old wineskin, praying for change or something new, but we are not in a condition to receive it, as it would cause more harm than good.

Perhaps you are praying for God to do a new thing in your finances, but you have yet to master the art of budgeting. Maybe you are praying for an increase in friendships but don't make yourself available or vulnerable enough to forge deeper friendships. Perhaps you are praying for a new thing in your career, but you are doing the bare minimum, not showcasing what you are truly capable of and can be trusted with. When we pray for more, we must have the discipline and capacity for what comes with the “more.” Where

there is an increase, there is also increased responsibility.

One of the 12 stones is “we lead like champions.” Leadership occurs in all places at all times, not just when others answer to us or when we are in the public eye. It demands us to be willing to change and transform, to adapt, to become less so Jesus can become more, to sacrifice, and to do the right thing even when no one is looking. We believe we are all called to be leaders, and we don’t lead from a place of lack but from a place of victory. This means we need to step into the leadership role with new authority and as a new vessel.

God has significant things He wants to do in our lives and is calling us higher. We want to be ready and available for what He is going to do this year, laying down the old and picking up the new.

PRAYER

FATHER, THANK YOU FOR WANTING TO DO A NEW THING IN MY LIFE AND IN THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND ME. I ASK THAT YOU WOULD SHOW ME THE AREAS IN MY LIFE WHERE I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN A STATE OF “OLD” AND NEED TO EXCHANGE IT FOR THE “NEW.” GIVE ME EYES TO SEE MYSELF AS A LEADER WHEREVER I GO OR WHATEVER I DO, SO I CAN BE USED TO CHANGE ANY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE I HAVE. PREPARE ME FOR WHAT YOU HAVE FOR ME THIS YEAR. I AM BELIEVING FOR INCREASE; MAKE ME A NEW VESSEL YOU CAN WORK THROUGH THIS YEAR. IN JESUS’ NAME, AMEN.