

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road with tire tracks leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. The terrain is sandy and sparsely covered with small, dry bushes. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is desolate and expansive.

# The Gospel of Matthew

WHY DID THE KING COME BUT NOT THE KINGDOM?

# Outline to the book of Matthew:

## I. The King Has Come 1:1-13:53

1. *The Incarnation and the preparation of the King 1:1 – 4:11*
2. *The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 – 7:29*
3. *The Manifestation of the King 8:1 – 11:1*
4. *The Opposition to the King 11:2 – 13:53*

## II. The Kingdom Has Not 13:54-28:20

5. *The Reaction of the King, 13:54 – 19:2*
6. *The Formal Presentation and Rejection of the King, 19:3 – 25:46*
7. *The Crucifixion and the Resurrection of the King, 26:1 – 28:20*

\*\*\*Subpoints follow Stanley Toussaint's seven main divisions outlined in his commentary.

I. THE KING HAS COME 1:1 – 13:53

3. The Manifestation of the King 8:1 – 11:1

(Matthew 9:14-17)

*“Breaking Down the Fences”*

## Outline –

1. The question of fasting v. 14
2. The theology of fasting
3. The answer on fasting vv. 15-17

# 1- The question of fasting v. 14

## A. Observation:

- The disciples of John v. 14a
  - “Then the disciples of John”
  - “came to Him, saying”
- The question v. 14b
  - 1) “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often,”
  - 2) “but Your disciples do not fast?”

# 1- The question of fasting v. 14

A. Observation: Phase 2 investigation of MM: Interrogation –

- Fasting question (a test of Pharisaic orthodoxy)
- Sabbath work question (cf. Lk. 6:2)
- Sabbath healing accusation (Lk. 6:6-11)

# 1- The question of fasting v. 14

## B. Summary/Application:

- The Pharisees were testing the Messiah for “blemish” to see if He is lawless.
- Their standard is the Law + “fences”
- Jesus upheld the Law and rejected the “fences”
- The reason for the religious leaders rejecting Jesus was His rejection of their theology.
- Is our theology liable for rejection?
- How do we ensure good theology?

## Outline –

1. The question of fasting v. 14
2. The theology of fasting
3. The answer on fasting vv. 15-17



## 2- The theology of fasting

### A. Observation:

- The historical development of the “fences”

- Pilpulistic logic: “Given a specific statement or commandment, how many new regulations could be logically derived from that original statement or commandment?” – Fruchtenbaum pg. 201 v2
- Ex. 23:19 “do not seethe (boil) a kid in its mother’s milk” = A Jew may not eat milk and meat products at the same time. 4 hour wait.

## The historical development of the “fences”

Three phases of development:

### Phase 1 – The Sopherim (Scribes)

- Built “fences” after Babylonian Captivity
- Principle: “A Sopher may disagree with another Sopher, but he cannot disagree with Torah.”

## The historical development of the “fences”

Three phases of development:

Phase 2 – The Tannaim (30 b.c. – 220 a.d.)

- Principle: “A Tanna may disagree with another Tanna, but he cannot disagree with a Sopher.”
- Result: All Sopher “fences” are now held in equal validity with Scripture.
- Their Justification: Oral law passed down from Moses until 220 a.d. Rabbis finally wrote it down.

## The historical development of the “fences”

Three phases of development:

### Phase 3 – The Amoraim (teacher/interpreter)

- Principle: “An Amora may disagree with an Amora, but he cannot disagree with a Tanna.”
- Result: All Sopher and Tanna “fences” held in equal validity with Scripture.
- Their Justification: Oral Law

# The historical development of the “fences”

Three phases of development:

Phase 1 – The Sopherim (Scribes)

Phase 2 – The Tannaim

Phase 3 – The Amoraim (teacher/interpreter)

➤ Sopherim + Tannaim = Mishna

➤ Amoraim = Gemara

➤ Mishna + Gemara = Talmud

## 2- The theology of fasting

### B. Summary/Application:

- Fasting under Pharisaic Judaism is rejected.
- Jesus rejected Pharisaic Judaism.
- Pharisaic Judaism violates Sola Scriptura.
- Pharisaic Judaism violates authority.
- What authority are you under?
- How do we maintain the right authority?

## Outline –

1. The question of fasting v. 14
2. The theology of fasting
3. The answer on fasting vv. 15-17

### 3- The answer on fasting vv. 15-17

#### A. Observation:

- Jesus' response: (Instruction, then 2 parables)

#### 1) Friends of the Bridegroom v. 15

- It would be improper for His disciples to fast since He is the “Bridegroom.”
- This would challenge the fasters as to why they are still fasting if Jesus is the Messiah.



## 3- The answer on fasting vv. 15-17

### A. Observation:

- Jesus' response: (Teaching then 2 parables)

1) Friends of the Bridegroom v. 15

2) Cloth and garment v. 16

3) Wine and wineskins v. 17

## Cloth and garment v. 16

- Thrown alongside the principle of impropriety of fasting at a wedding feast.
  - Principle: “no one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment;”
  - Reason: “for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.”
  - Meaning: Jesus’ instruction not compatible with Pharisaic “fences.”
    - Jesus gives new clothes, not repatch old (cf. Is. 61:10)

## Wine and Wineskins v. 17

- Thrown alongside the principle of impropriety of fasting at a wedding feast.
  - Principle: “nor do they put new wine into old wineskins”
  - Reason: “or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”
  - Meaning: Jesus’ instruction not compatible with Pharisaic “fences.”
    - The future motif of “new wine” (cf. Amos 9:11-15)

### 3- The answer on fasting vv. 15-17

#### B. Summary/Application:

- The disciples of Jesus did not fast because they were with the Messiah.
- Jesus' instruction is incompatible with Pharisaic "fences"
- Pharisaic "fences" violate the Word of God and its authority.
- Do we have the proper view of God and His word?

I. THE KING HAS COME 1:1 – 13:53

3. The Manifestation of the King 8:1 – 11:1

(Matthew 9:14-17)

***“Do NOT Fast the Word of  
God and its Authority”***



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