The Gospel of the King
Why We Fast

¹⁸ 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?"
¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. ²¹ 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. ²² 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 2:18-22 (ESV)

The **question**: "Why do your disciples *not* fast (like John's and the Pharisees' do)?"

Some assumptions behind the question …

 Fasting in the Old Testament (Leviticus 16:29,31) …

 Fasting in Jesus' day (Luke 18:12) …

Jesus' **response**:

The Kingdom of God is a _____, not a _____!

 The presence of _____ the presence of _____!

 There will come a time for fasting, but it is not now!

 Note: It's important that we see Jesus' time with his disciples as a _____ period that gives us a glimpse into what is to come in His Kingdom, not as a _____ _____ for the church right now.

 Our best practices come from the period _____ until the day that Christ returns.

2 metaphors declaring that the Kingdom of God is _____ and it is revolutionary.

 What distinguishes Christianity from Judaism is that the _____ (and His Kingdom) has come _____!

 We will still fast, but our _____ for fasting are different now!

 We fast because we _____

 We fast because we are _____

 We fast because we still need to learn to _____

 We fast because we still need to _____

 We fast because _____ and we still need _____

Good News for us:
Our short period of _____ will surely give way to an everlasting period of _____!

Dr. Paul Thompson
Calvary Baptist Church
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