

June 27/28, 2026

“Patches and Wineskins”

Pastor Jeff Manion



Beyond the
Weekend

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY, + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | July: Worship

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [Luke 5:27-39](#) | Parables

He told them this parable: “No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one.” Luke 5:36a

Crowds gather around Jesus from the start of his ministry. His teaching compels them to follow him. Some find that he speaks directly to their hearts. Others are captivated by the risk he poses to the current establishment. Some want to crown him King. Others seek to kill him. One essential teaching element contributes to his allure—parables, which are small stories that use common, earthly things to reveal heavenly meaning. Jesus uses these stories to reveal who he is, his way, and his realm. They paint a picture of what God is doing. Like a canvas that must be observed, his parables force his audience to pause and mull them over. To do so is to gain deeper meaning.

Jesus invites us to find the beauty within his parables today. These stories contain timeless truths that help us reorient our thoughts and actions around him, his ways, and his kingdom. Like his original audience, if we take the time to sit with his words and mull them over, we can learn deeper spiritual truths. Throughout this sermon series, we will look at parables found in Luke’s Gospel. Through these stories, Jesus invites us to look at the world with his eyes.

PRAYER DAY #50: One of the best ways we reorient our lives around Jesus and his kingdom is through prayer. On our final day of the 50 Days of Prayer Challenge, write out the Lord’s Prayer, found in [Matthew 6:9-13](#), one last time. Place it somewhere visible and commit to continuing to pray Jesus’s words for yourself, your family, and your church.

Day 2 [Luke 5:36-39](#) | Patches and Wineskins

He told them this parable: “No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old.” Luke 5:36

The anxious tenor of accusation strikes early in Jesus’s ministry. He is not like other rabbis, nor are his disciples like other disciples. Early on, people accuse them for not fasting. When pressed, Jesus responds with a parable. He says that in the same way you cannot fix an old garment with a new patch without ruining the clothing, so the kingdom of heaven does not fit into the old system. The same is true for new wine in old wineskins. Wine that is still fermenting and expanding will burst an old, brittle container. Jesus’s onlookers don’t understand God’s kingdom, and Jesus doesn’t fit into their system. Something new is happening here. Jesus is that new thing.

It is often easy for us to think we can invite Jesus into our lives without being changed by him. As if his way is something we can add to flavor a menu we've already selected. However, following Jesus isn't about adding him to our pre-selected plans. We follow him to get to where he is going, not where we are going. His way is backwards to our natural tendencies. He calls us to love our enemies and bless those who curse us. It is a lifestyle marked by joyful generosity instead of impatient receiving. It requires time set aside to know him and serve him.

TODAY: Spend time asking God to reveal where you've been trying to fit Jesus into your way of life. Confess anything he brings to mind, and ask him to shape you throughout this series.

Day 3 [Luke 5:27-32](#) | Tax Collector's Feast

Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. Luke 5:29

Before Jesus shares his parable about the patches and wineskins, he joins a feast at a tax collector's house. The table is set by Levi, a tax collector whom Jesus has just invited to follow him. Levi has dropped everything to do so. The entourage sitting around the table this evening includes the "who's who" of cheats and hated men. These people cooperate with Rome and steal money from their own people. For Jesus to sit and laugh with them is beyond radical. It's jaw-dropping! Yet, through his presence, Jesus proclaims that the kingdom of heaven is here. The promised one has arrived. The people around the table, captivated by his presence, will be changed forever.

Jesus approaches our table too. His kingdom is for us if we hear his call and respond. He came for unlikely people, and that includes us—people who are tired of trying to live perfectly, people who have blown up their lives. We get to participate in his kingdom when we turn to him, accept his forgiveness for our sins, and choose to follow him. Like Levi, we are welcome to dine at his table. In him, there is eternal life and joyful purpose which starts now.

TODAY: Jesus invites you to follow him. If you would like to accept his invitation, pray: "Jesus, I confess I'm lost. I believe you are the Son of God and that you died for my sins. I want to make you Lord over my life. Amen." If you prayed that for the first time, we would love to talk with you. Email us at btw@adabile.org. If you have already believed in Jesus, give thanks that you've been welcomed into his feast.

Join us for a special Bonus Episode of the Beyond the Weekend Podcast today. Find it wherever you [listen to podcasts](#) or on [watch on YouTube](#).

Day 4 [Luke 5:33-39](#) | Skipping Meals

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking." Luke 5:33

When John the Baptist's disciples approach Jesus with a question about fasting, there is palpable confusion. Both John's apprentices and the Pharisees have good reasons for fasting. They want to show God how serious they are about their faith. Like Daniel in the Old Testament, who studied God's Word and responded through prayer and fasting, these men fast because they want God to return to set up his kingdom ([Daniel 9:3](#)). So, when they see Jesus and his disciples celebrating and feasting, they are bewildered. "They must not be desperate for God's kingdom to come," they think. Yet, in that accusation, they miss who Jesus really is. The kingdom has come, and it is in him. He doesn't fit their expectations. While committed to their faith, they miss the object of their devotion.

We too can be serious about our devotion to God and completely miss him. Regular church attendance, prayer, engagement with the Word, service, and generosity are all good things. And yet, when we do them to get God's attention or to maintain the appearance of being a good Christian, we miss the heart of Jesus himself. He came to change us from the inside out, not only our outward actions. Spiritual practices are meant to bring us close to Jesus. They are meant to shape our lives to look like him.

TODAY: As you read your Bible and pray today, ask God to use these practices to draw you nearer to him. "Father, let the rhythms of my faith bring me closer to you. And as you draw near, shape me to look more like you. Amen."



Day 5 [Psalm 95:1–7](#) | Worship in Prayer

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. July's focus is Worship.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Psalm 95:6–7

The psalmist's voice rings out, calling people to attention. In ancient Israel, many of the Psalms are sung as God's people head toward the temple to prepare their hearts for worship. Psalm 95 opens with a burst of joyful noise, then slows to a reverent hush: bow down, kneel, come before your Maker. The psalmist's words remind people of who God is—the great King, Creator of oceans and mountain peaks—and who they are: his flock, safe under his care. Their worship flows from the truth of who God is.

This month, we focus on worship in prayer. Worship is adoring God for who he is—his character, greatness, and love. Prayer can easily become a list of things we need God's help with. Pausing to worship who he is reorients our hearts. When we bow before God in prayer—in song, in silence, or in words—we declare that he is our Maker, our King, our Shepherd. We remember who it is we pray to. Just as the psalmist called Israel to kneel before the Lord, we too are invited to come before God in awe and adoration for who he is. Through Jesus, we have direct access to the Father, and we can approach him with both confidence and reverence ([Hebrews 4:14–16](#)). Worship in prayer shifts our focus from our problems to his greatness, and that changes everything.

TODAY: Read [Psalm 95:1–7](#) slowly as a prayer. For each truth about God you see in the passage, pause and tell him, "Lord, I worship you because you are _____."