

Intro.

- A. Jesus was at home among the common things of life.
1. For most cultures for centuries, mending old garments was a regular routine in most households.
 2. This poem will stir the memory of a lot of you in this auditorium.

There was Pete, Jim, George, Joseph & Ned.

A half dozen boys to be clothed & fed.

I buy for them all plain [vittles] to eat.

But clothing, I only buy clothing for Pete.

- B. The occasion of the parable:
1. John's disc. had been watching Christ & disciples at distance asked: Why do your disciples not fast?
 2. They thought Jesus = a reformer who would mend the Jew's religion.
 3. Jesus' mission was to transform, not to reform.

Discuss.**I. TEXT SUGGESTS THAT A CHANGE OR REMEDY IS NEEDED.** (Rom. 3:23 & Jn. 3:3)

- A. This need is almost universally recognized.
1. Even the worst of all sinners – Judas – realized he had to change, but he did not make right change.
 2. Even good men -- like that young, rich ruler of **Mt. 19:20** knew his need, but failed to change.
- B. Many others made the necessary & appropriate changes (Saul, Lydia, Cornelius, Phil. Jailor, Apollos).
- C. In view of this very real need, what should we do?

II. SOME SAY. PATCH THE GARMENT.

- A. **1st Cent.** – Jews wanted to *patch* Judaism with Christianity.
1. Obvious in attempt to bind circumcision (**Ac. 15:1**); keeping of feast days (**Gal. 4:10**)
 2. Judaism was thread bare [worn out] -- (**Heb. 8:7, 13 & Gal. 3:19**)
- B. **4th Cent.** – In political Rome, Constantine attempted to use Christianity = a patch, resulting Catholicism.
1. Every effort to destroy Christianity had failed, & the Way was increasing in popularity.
 2. Roman church adopted much of Christianity, but she *exercised the power of the 1st beast*, **Rev. 13:11f**
 3. Catholicism eventually became the *patchwork* of paganism (Easter & Christmas), & also of Judaism (e.g., priesthood & incense).
- C. **16th Cent.** – Reformers wanted to patch Catholicism, but this gave rise to Protestantism. (denominations)
1. They were trying to reform corruptions in the Catholic church.
 2. While they certainly moved closer to Bible, yet -- never completely severed themselves f/ doct. of men.
- D. **20th Cent.** – Efforts are being made to patch Protestantism.
1. There has been a 50 yr. effort to blend together all Protestant religions into a union, but keeping their ID.
 2. Presently, the **Community Church** movement = contemporary effort at recklessly attempting to patch the garment of Protestant Denominationalism.
 - a. Characteristics include → *New Hermeneutics* (Bible \geq God's law to obey, but a love story to enjoy)
 - b. *Expanding of Women's role to leadership, etc.*
 - c. *Third Wave* – (Neo-Pentecostal Movement)
- E. **21st Cent.** – Witness growing tolerance & acceptance of all "religions", & blending them = New Age Relig.

III. JESUS SAYS, REMAKE THE GARMENT.

- A. Religious systems must not be remodeled or patched, but abandoned in exchange for Truth, & the N. T. church. (**Mt. 6:33; Mt. 15:18; Eph. 1:22-23 & 4:4-6**)

- B. Christianity = a new religion, **Jn. 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9-10**

- Concl.
1. To many, Christianity = a ruffle to be tacked on to their life.
 2. To Christ, it is to permeate our everyday affairs each day of our lives, not confined to holy days or so-called holy places.