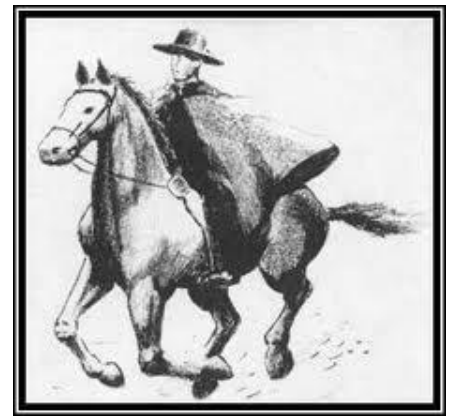


A New Thing in Christ

Saturday, October 01, 2011
5:26 AM



Principal Points:

1. God desires to do a new thing
2. New projects require new frameworks
3. Accept & embrace the new things

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| Verses: | Is. 43:18-21 | Behold, I am doing a new thing... |
| | Jer. 23:7-8 | As the LORD lives who brought up & led the descendants... from the north country |
| | Ez. 3:12-13 | Weeping and shouts of joy mixed |
| | Mt. 9:14-17 | Unshrunk cloth on old garments, and new wine in new wineskins |

Is. 43:18-21, "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. The beast of the field will honor Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen. This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise."

- a. Forget the old things
 - i. Ez. 3:12-13, "But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off. "
- b. A new thing is being done
 - i. Mt. 9:14-17, "Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, 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."
 - 1) Friends of the Bridegroom
 - 2) Unshrunk cloth; put to the test before being added to the garment
 - 3) New wine; "The pressure caused by the fermentation of the new wine would burst the old skins because they had lost their elasticity. The life and liberty of the Gospel ruins the wineskins of ritualism."
- c. Roads in the wilderness; social justice
 - i. Commerce and transportation; access to those who had had none.
- d. Rivers in the desert; social justice
 - i. Life, growth, fruitful & productive
- e. Beasts will honor Him; social justice and transformation
 - i. Jackals: "This animal has long been the subject of superstition about death and evil spirits. The ancient Egyptians believed a jackal-headed god, Anubis, guided the dead to those who judged their souls. Such beliefs were probably encouraged by the jackal's cleverness, nocturnal habits, eerie howling and scavenging... they have long had a reputation as sneaky, skulking scavengers... "
 - ii. Ostriches: "Ostriches have gained the ability to survive a long time without water, but will drink and bathe whenever possible. While eating or drinking, ostriches will frequently raise their long necks in the

air to look for potential predators... Unlike horses, who are social and willing to change behavior to please; ostriches are very unpredictable and untrainable. They have no desire to please, or be social."

- f. My people, My chosen whom I have formed for Myself
 - i. Rebirth and resurrection
 - ii. *Jer. 23:7-8, "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."*
- g. They shall declare my praise; all for the glory of God
 - i. New songs. Ps. 33:3, 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, 144:9, 149:1
- h. We can't go on doing church the way we used to, we must be aggressive in bringing the Kingdom of God in our midst and to the lost & hurting of the community. Where can we minister, where are our fields, what are the wildernesses of our community, who are the jackals & ostriches??
 - i. Schools,
 - ii. Hispanic community
 - iii. The impoverished
- i. Great things come from those of whom great things are expected.
- j. *Is. 42:8-23, "I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them." Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, The villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD, And declare His praise in the coastlands. The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. "I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. I will lay waste the mountains and hills, And dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, And I will dry up the pools. I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them. They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded images, 'You are our gods.' "Hear, you deaf; And look, you blind, that you may see. Who is blind but My servant, Or deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is blind as he who is perfect, And blind as the LORD's servant? Seeing many things, but you do not observe; Opening the ears, but he does not hear." The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness's sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable. But this is a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!" Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come?"*