



[Luke 5:39](#)

(39) And no one after drinking the old wine immediately desires the new; for he says, 'The old is better.' "

A Faithful Version

Our responsibility is to step out in [faith](#), trusting Him, yielding to His truths taught to us. We do this by putting it to work in our lives, but it is not always easily done. What we are, what we have become since birth, is deeply entrenched in our character, and our nature does not cede control easily. Notice the example of Israel: "And the LORD said to [Moses](#), 'I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!'" ([Exodus 32:9](#)). "Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people" ([Exodus 33:3](#)). "But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear nor receive instruction" ([Jeremiah 17:23](#)).

This theme runs throughout the Bible. When [Hebrews 4:1-2](#) says that the Israelites failed in the wilderness because "the word which they heard . . . [was not] mixed with faith," Paul is referring to this principle. They simply would not yield their mind to admit that He was right. They seized upon their own opinions, observing them rather than what [God](#) commanded. Each individual Israelite may not have actually gone through the process of rejecting each command, but simply keeping their habitual attitudes and conduct produced the same end. Their actions and attitudes, then, like the basketball players who never "buy" the coach's system, spoke for them, revealing what they, in their heart of hearts, *really* believed.

In [Luke 5:39](#), [Jesus](#) uses an illustration to help us understand this rejection syndrome. He teaches that man has a natural resistance to the things of God. A wider and equally true application is that we humans almost immediately resist anything different from what we believe at the time. This is both good and bad. The important thing is whether we honestly consider and appraise behaviors and ideas before rejecting them.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Luke 5:39 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

Are our minds honest enough that, when hearing God's Word truthfully expounded, we will consciously and promptly take action to change when wrong? The Israelites appear to have had an automatic *negative* reaction to God's Word. They definitely did not have a childlike, submissive attitude! The Bible records that their conduct never changed, nor did their attitudes. In the game of life, they kept right on doing things as they always had, so they died in the wilderness. They left Egypt, but Egypt never left them.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Eating: How Good It Is! \(Part Five\)](#)

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