

## Matthew 9:14

*Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"*

When you read today's devotional verse, you must realize that the John spoken of here is John the Baptist. That's important, because we know that John the Baptist was a man of God, a prophet and that he spoke the words of God.

So, John's disciples come to Jesus and ask him a question, which is, "*Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?*"

We are not going to focus on the answer to the question, and if you want to know what Jesus' response was, go ahead and read it for yourself in Matthew 9:15-17 then come back and finish reading the devotional.

But the one thing that caught my attention when I read this verse this morning was, not really the question in itself, but rather how, with their question, they made themselves out to be, in their eyes, super spiritual. Did you catch that in their question?

*Why do we and the Pharisees* (underlined for emphasis)

You see, the Pharisees were considered to be the super spiritual guys, so John's disciples posed the question as they were as religious or as super spiritual as the Pharisees, and by doing so, they were saying that what they were doing, fasting, was right and that Jesus' disciples who were not fasting at that time were wrong. They also implied, that in their eyes they were more spiritual than Jesus' disciples.

Yet, we need to be cautious, because we tend to do the same thing, simply by stating things like, "*Well, at my church we don't do things that way.*" Which is wrong to say.

I was visiting a church where I am right now, and the pastor spoke against pastors who actually tells jokes or that make people laugh during their sermons or teachings. He also bashed on the worship teams at some churches saying that those who are leading worship are being paid and are not Christians. Then making sure people knew that it would not happen in that church.

Well, I have not gone back there. But in regards to telling jokes or making people laugh during a sermon. Sorry dude, I don't want dry, boring teachings. I want the pastor to be honest and himself, and if part of his teaching style is to make me laugh in a way that I can relate to what's being taught, I'm all for it.

Second, in regards to those on the worship team being paid. At several churches I have gone to, yes, many on the worship team were being paid, but then they were Christians who were on staff at the church as well.

Simply we cannot be like John's disciples and try to make ourselves more spiritual because of the church we go to, or the denomination of the church we go to. Also we cannot make ourselves any better than another Christian because of the things we do, or don't do. Like fasting, how much we pray, what we watch and don't watch on TV and so on.

† **Romans 14:1-4** *Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.*