



Covenants

(The secret to flourishing relationships)

Lesson 2: A Better Covenant

March 7 & 8

New Covenant vs. Old Covenant

Deuteronomy 28:1 “If you **fully obey** the Lord your God and **carefully keep** all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. **2 You will experience all these blessings** if you obey the Lord your God: *New Living Translation*

Mark 11:22 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. **23** I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But **you must really believe it will happen** and have no doubt in your heart. **24** I tell you, you can pray for anything, and **if you believe** that you’ve received it, it will be yours. *New Living Translation*

New Covenant vs. Old Covenant

OC: Living obediently brought blessings

NC: Living obediently won’t bring blessings

NC: Only believing promises will bring blessings

New Covenant vs. Old Covenant

Deuteronomy 28:15 “But if you refuse to listen to the Lord your God and **do not obey all the commands and decrees** I am giving you today, **all these curses will come and overwhelm you:** *New Living Translation*

Galatians 3:13 But Christ **has rescued us from the curse** pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “**Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.**” *New Living Translation*

New Covenant vs. Old Covenant

OC: Living disobediently brought a curse

NC: Living disobediently won't bring a curse

The New Covenant enables us to experience heaven on earth

Hebrews 8:6 But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as **the covenant** of which he is mediator **is superior to the old one**, since the new covenant is **established on better promises.** *New International Version*

What makes the New Covenant Better?

1. A better high priest

Hebrews 7:23 There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. **24** But because Jesus lives forever, **his priesthood lasts forever.** **25** Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. **He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.** *New Living Translation*

What makes the New Covenant Better?

2. A better sacrifice

Hebrews 10:11 Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. **12** But our High Priest offered himself to God as **a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time.** Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand... **14** For by that one offering **he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.** *New Living Translation*

What makes the New Covenant Better?

3. You know God from day one

Hebrews 8:11 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the Lord.’ **For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already.** *New Living Translation*

What makes the New Covenant Better?

4. Internal conversion

Colossians 2:11 When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision - **the cutting away of your sinful nature.** *New Living Translation*

Ezekiel 36:26 And I will give you **a new heart**, and I will **put a new spirit in you**. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. *New Living Translation*

What makes the New Covenant Better?

5. Internal growth

Hebrews 8:10 But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the Lord: I will **put my laws in their minds**, and I will **write them on their hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people. *New Living Translation*

What makes the New Covenant Better?

6. No guilt

Hebrews 8:12 And I will forgive their wickedness, and **I will never again remember their sins.** *New Living Translation*

Romans 8:1 So now there is **no condemnation** for those who belong to Christ Jesus. *New Living Translation*

What makes the New Covenant Better?

7. New desires

Jeremiah 32:40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them: **I will never stop doing good** for them. **I will put a desire in their hearts to worship me**, and they will never leave me. *New Living Translation*

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *New King James Version*