

The Chiasm of Luke 5:36-39

A chiasm is a literary structure where vocabulary of the first section of a passage is repeated in reverse order in the second. The center of the chiasm is typically the climax of the passage. In Luke 5:36-39 the center and climax is that new wine bursts old wineskins (Luke 5:37).

A `And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a **new** (Greek: *kainos*) garment and puts it on an **old** garment; otherwise he will both tear the **new** (Greek: *kainos*), and the piece from the **new** (Greek: *kainos*) will not match the **old**." (5:36)

B And no one puts **new wine** into old **wineskins**; (5:37a)

B' otherwise the **new wine** will burst the **skins** and it will be spilled out, and the **skins** will be ruined. (5:37b)

A' But new¹ wine must be put into **fresh** (Greek: *kainos*) wineskins. And no one, after drinking **old** wine wishes for new; for he says, "The **old** is good enough." (5:38-39)

¹ The Greek word translated "new" in verses 38 and 39 is *neos*.