

Wine And Temple Cleansing: John 2.

I. Water Into Wine (1-16).

This is the first of many stories suggesting that Jesus was always welcome among those having a good time. Jesus didn't spoil the good time.

- i. Do what Jesus tells you to do even when it makes no sense.

John 14:15 - *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. **Psalm 104:15** - And wine that makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread which strengthens man's heart.*

- ii. Abstain. a. Because it may take control of you.

Alcohol, ethanol, fermented or distilled, is the intoxicating ingredient found in wines, spirits or beers that diminishes brain function and results in alterations in perception, mood or consciousness. Alcohol is produced by the fermentation of yeast, sugars, and starches.

Genesis 9:21 - *Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.*

Leviticus 10:9 - *"Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations,*

Proverbs 20:1 - *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.*

Proverbs 23:31-35 -*Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"*

Alcohol affects every organ in the drinker's body. Intoxication can impair brain function and motion abilities. A simple habit of occasional or ceremonial drinking often leads to alcohol abuse/alcoholism – a disorder characterized by a strong craving for alcohol, and/or continued use despite harm or personal injury. Alcohol abuse, which can lead to alcoholism, is a pattern of drinking that results in harm to one's health and/or others (one out of three motor accidents), interpersonal relationships, or ability to work.

Ecclesiastes 2:3 - *I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine,*

Wine was used as a disinfectant and stomach medicine. Wine is also symbolic of God's wrath.

Alcohol is a depressant that not only affects one's physical well-being, but also one's psychological and mental aspects. The psychological effects of alcohol include depression, anxiety, changes in personality (excited or angry behaviour, aggression, and the lack or deterioration of morals), obsession, and denial. The more alcohol consumed the more of an opportunity it has to decrease brain activity within the body's nervous system. Increased frequency of alcohol consumption causes desire for more. The damage caused by alcohol consumption and drinking at once is not worth it. National Institute Of Drug Abuse.

Ephesians 5:18 - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

b. Because it stumbles younger believers or former drunks.

1 Corinthians 8:13 - *Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.*

II. Temple Cleansing (17-25).

Jerusalem would be crowded with thousands of visitors coming at **Passover**. The **temple** mount would be particularly crowded, and Jesus saw many **doing business** in the outer courts of the temple, occupying the only place Gentiles could pray. In addition, their *dishonesty* made their presence all the worse.

Ephesians 2:19-22 - *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

1 Peter 2:5 - *you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*