



Weekly Devotional
for the
First Week of September

“Jesus, Wine & Anger”

John 2

Jesus, Wine and Anger! Got your attention, didn't I? Some read in John 2 the story of Jesus turning water into wine and explain in their drunken condition, “*Jesus made wine out of water so it's okay for me to drink wine!*” Or later in John 2 they read that Jesus “...made a whip out of cords and drove all from the temple area...” and then justify their anger by saying, “*Even Jesus lost His cool sometimes, so give me a break!*”

Many would agree that alcohol and anger abuse is prevalent in our culture, but I don't think the action of Jesus in John 2 supports such abuse. When Jesus miraculously turned water into wine, cleared out the temple and performed many miracles, something spectacular happened! His disciples put their faith in Him (v. 11) and many people believed in His name (v. 23)! I propose the following questions for you to prayerfully contemplate in your relationship with Jesus:

1. As you experience the miraculous working of Jesus in your life, does your faith and belief in Him increase?
2. Do you find yourself captured by His amazing ability to work all things together for His glory and your best?
3. Why do you suppose the enemy of your soul tries so desperately to keep you blinded from seeing the miracles of Jesus in your life?

“God’s Plans or People’s Plans”

John 6

What an incredible chapter in the book of John! Jesus feeds five thousand, He walks on the water, states clearly that He is the Bread of Life, and then many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him. What I find interesting in this chapter are the plans and motivation of the people following after Jesus. What were some of them thinking and planning?

In verse 15 it was very clear to Jesus that some people intended to forcefully make Him king. He knew what God’s plan was for Him and nothing was going to keep Him from that. The question you need to answer today is, “Are you aware of the plans that some people might have for you?” Better yet, “Are you aware of God’s plans for you?” Be careful—some people’s plans just might not be God’s plans for you.

Next time you feel pressured by people and their plans for your life, take the example of Jesus and get away from such people and find a place of solitude and prayer! “Prayer is cooperation with God. It is the purest exercise of the faculties God has given us—and exercise that **links these faculties with the Maker to work out the intentions He had in mind** in their creation.” (E. Stanley Jones)

1. What verses have caught your attention and why?
2. How does this apply to my life?
3. After reading and thinking, what should you spend time praying about from today’s study?