

Food for thought from the Gospel of John

2 – 2 After the Wedding

Read John 2:12-25

The wedding (John 2:1-11) was a lovely social event – an affirmation of the sacred union between a man and a woman that God established for all of time. Jesus graced the wedding with His presence and with His help. But now Jesus' ministry is going to tackle difficult things. Things that will confront people with sin, hypocrisy, and carnality. There are three observations in John 2:12-25 – Pure Worship, Promised Resurrection, and Popularity isn't Popular

John 2:12-17 Pure Worship

Jesus went into the temple and confronted the abusive business of money changing. There was a need to provide animals for sacrifice to those who travelled far. But, in order to purchase sacrificial animals, people were required to pay exorbitant fees for converting regular money to "Temple Money." This abusive commercialism destroyed the atmosphere of prayer and worship that God intended. Politics and money have been two major perversions of the sincere worship and service of God (II Corinthians 2:17; 4:1-2 cp. John 4:23-24).

John 2:12-17 is the first of two times that Jesus would cleanse the temple. The first time was early in His earthly ministry, after the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The second time was near the end of His earthly ministry – after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:12–17, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45–48). This helps us understand that greed and corruption are perennial problems and require constant vigilance. In John 2:16, Jesus said that they were turning His Father's house into "*a house of merchandise.*" Three years later, when Jesus cleansed the temple again, Jesus said that they had turned it into a "*den of thieves*" (Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46).

It would seem that the problem of greed and corruption are not only perennial, but they increase in sinfulness (II Timothy 3:13; Jude 1:3-4). Yet, those who try to hold the line and resist worldliness and carnality in the worship and service of God will receive rebuke, even persecution. Note Matthew 21:23-46. The day after Jesus cleansed the temple the second time, they went after Him. See also II Timothy 3:12; I John 3:12-13 (Titus 2:11-14 – note vs. 14 "*zeal*" cp. John 2:17).