

## Food for thought from the Gospel of John

### # 2 – 3 After the Wedding – Part 2

#### Read John 2:12-22

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.

#### **John 2:12-17 Pure Worship**

Jesus went into the temple and confronted the abusive business of money changing.

#### **John 2:18-22 Promised Resurrection**

In the course of exposing the hypocrisy and commercialism of their religious practices, the Jews answered Jesus by demanding a sign / miracle. Instead of considering the scriptural truth of what Jesus was saying, they wanted a performance – as if to say, “Do something special and impress us. Then we’ll listen to you.”

People have a way of talking about truth, but not really getting involved with it. Matthew 12:33-42 shows a powerful example of this. Jesus was talking about fruitful lives, pure hearts and wise words. Again, the people wanted Jesus to demonstrate a sign / miracle to them. He warned them that seeking signs / miracles is the practice of an evil and adulterous generation. Truth does not seem to be enough for many people. Unless there is something supernatural to confirm it, they don't want to bother with it. Truth requires something from us. Seeking a sign / miracle is a distraction from facing the truth. Jesus did miracles to fulfill the Scriptures – not to satisfy the urge of the curious. Consider I Corinthians 1:18-24.

In both John 2:18-22 and Matthew 12:38-42 Jesus offered the “sign-seekers” the same sign. It had to do with Jesus being killed and rising from the dead after three days and three nights. In John 2, He cloaked the sign by referring to His body as a temple which would be torn down. Then, in three days, He would raise it back up. In Matthew 12, He used the comparison of Jonah the prophet being in the belly of a whale / great fish / sea monster for three days and three nights. In either case, the people who asked for a sign were not impressed / satisfied. We can observe in John 6:24-30 that people who had already witnessed a miracle (feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fish) still asked for another sign when Christ's teaching demanded faith and obedience from them. See John 3:19-21.

It is those who followed Jesus that would benefit from the Scriptures and the Words which Jesus spoke (John 2:22). Have you considered the Words / teachings of Jesus Christ and compared them to the Old Testament Scriptures? Of all the signs / miracles which Jesus did, the greatest one is that He rose from the dead. See Luke 24:44-48; Romans 4:25; I Corinthians 15:1-8; II Timothy 2:8-10. Consider the resurrection, not as some mere event, but rather it is the essence of who Jesus is (John 11:25-26).