

Food for thought from the Gospel of John

2 – 4 After the Wedding – Part 3

John 2:1-11

Jesus attended and blessed a wedding, where He did His first miracle. He turned water into wine. But then Jesus' ministry turned to tackle difficult things. Things that would 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. He said that if they tore down this temple, He would raise it up again in three days. They thought He was talking about the temple of Solomon. But He was actually talking about His body as a temple.

John 2:23-25 Popularity Is Unpopular

It looked like Jesus was getting a following very quickly. Why was he not encouraging them to stay together and organize? Jesus made no commitments with these people. He was able to discern what was in their hearts. So, he did not trust them to be true followers for the right reasons. Many people will attach themselves to Jesus, or the idea of Jesus. But they have self-centered, fleshly, materialistic motives. Jesus wants to be believed, received, obeyed, and followed. He is not seeking to be popular with humanity. There is a difference!

Jesus isn't running for president. He doesn't need men to make Him a king. Jesus is not some talk-show host. He is not an insurance agent. Jesus is not selling anything. He is not Santa Clause, who tries to please people by rewarding them for good behavior. Jesus is not a first-aid kit. He doesn't want to improve you or this world. He wants to deliver you and transform you from this world. He plans to rule the world. He doesn't need your vote. He does not offer suggestions. The Lord Jesus Christ is calling us / commanding us to surrender to Him. See John 6:1-29,63-66 [especially note verses 14-15,26-27,66]; Psalm 2; Revelation 11:15-18.

When people try to make Jesus popular, He is not interested. A popular Jesus is an invention of men – another Jesus that cannot be your savior. **See** Galatians 1:6-10; 6:14; John 14:6-11. When a church seeks popularity, that church has forgotten its purpose and is failing / has failed its mission. **See** Revelation 2:4-5; 3:15-19; Luke 6:20-26; II Timothy 2:3-4.