

JESUS' AUTHORITY

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Know that Jesus has all authority over Heaven and earth because He is God.

Suggestion: The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: Jesus began His ministry at a wedding where He showed His authority over nature by changing water into wine. Then He showed His authority over the priests by cleansing the Temple of men who had turned the house of God into a market place. "Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power (authority) is given to Me in Heaven and in earth" - Matthew 28:18.

Why did Jesus refuse His mother's request at a wedding? 2:1-4

Mary had learned that the groom had not provided enough wine for his wedding feast, so she told Jesus about the need. Jesus politely told her that He was not accountable to her (He was accountable to His heavenly Father). He knew that His hour of glory had not come (it would follow His hour of suffering). By His action to turn water to wine, we believe His Father allowed Him to do it. We learn from this that Jesus' followers must seek God's will in every decision.

How can believers enjoy the blessings of Christ? 2:5-9

Mary told the servants how to respond to Christ: "Whatever He says to you, do it." Christ told them to fill six water pots with water holding 20-30 gallons each and they filled them to the brim. Then He told them to draw from the water pots and bring it to the one in charge of the feast. They obeyed Him. Whether the water turned to wine in the pots or as they drew it out of the pots is not revealed. Their obedience to Jesus is a lesson that the followers of Jesus must learn. Christ cannot bless us until we fully obey Him.

Why should we believe Jesus made non-alcoholic wine at a wedding feast? 2:6-11

The Greek word for wine is *oinos*; it was the common word for the fruit of the vine as a beverage with or without alcohol. Although fermented wine was used at meals, believers used it sparingly. Devoted believers in Bible times knew the dangers of fermented wine and warned others to abstain or be careful about its use - Prov 20:1; 23:29-35; 31:4-5; Rom 14:21. Would Christ make alcoholic wine when His Scriptures gave warnings about its use? According to the statistics most wines have a 12-15 percent alcoholic content, a dangerously strong drink. Would He give alcoholic wine to those that already had been drinking wine and potentially make some of them drunk? No! He would make wine full of rich flavor that would keep them sober. Unbelievers treasure fermented wine to experience the euphoria of being drunk, while serious believers treasure unfermented wine to enjoy the ecstasy of its flavor without losing control of themselves. What is the best wine? Jesus made the best wine from water which had no time to ferment. He blessed the guests with wine that had stimulating flavor but kept them sober.

What lesson should we learn from Christ's cleansing of the Temple? 2:13-17

Jesus cleansed the Temple from businesses to make money. It was supposed to be a house of prayer. We must not let our churches become a place for sales of used clothes, furniture, cars, boats, bakery goods or sales of any kind to raise money. It is not a business; it is a place to pray and worship God. He has told His people to support His work through tithes and offerings.

Why did Jesus not commit Himself to those that believed on Him? 2:23-25

Many saw Jesus' miracles and believed in Him, but He did not commit to them (or believe in them). He knew that they did not believe in Him for the right reason. Since it was not a faith based on God's Word and repentance of their sin, it was not saving faith. We must repent of our sin and trust Jesus' blood to remove our sins. Then we will be accepted by Him and have eternal life.