

What Jesus Actually Taught ...

... About Drinking

In the late 1800s alcohol began to take the blame for no end of social ills. Overcrowded prisons, swelling poorhouses, rising crime, widespread corruption, and general poor health were all laid at alcohol's feet. In 1869 Welch began selling Dr. Welch's Unfermented Wine for communion services. Shortly thereafter, the church jumped on the anti-alcohol bandwagon and leveraged its, then considerable, weight to push the 18th Amendment, Prohibition, through congress. The church also joined culture in vilifying alcohol consumption, suggesting that the Bible prohibited Christians from drinking. Even though Prohibition was repealed in 1933, Christian Prohibition continued to be the norm for many. Since then, there has been a lot of misinformation disseminated about what the Bible says about drinking. This week's Conversation will explore what Jesus really said about drinking.

Luke 7:31–35

1. Jesus said _____ about drinking.
2. There is no question: Jesus drank _____.
3. There are many references to drinking, both _____ and _____.
4. Like money, _____ is values-neutral – it is neither _____ nor _____.
5. Drinking is a matter of _____ and engaged in _____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll make my choices about alcohol responsibly
- I'll make my choices known responsibly
- I'll leverage the choices I make in order to make connections with those far from God

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: John 13

1. What was the example Jesus gave that he recommended to his disciples?
2. In verses 19–20, what must we do to accept God into our lives?

Reflect: How is Jesus' command in v. 34 a "new" commandment?

Tuesday

Read: John 14

1. According to Jesus, how does someone come to God?
2. What is required of us to show that we love Jesus?

Reflect: Jesus said his disciples knew the way to the place he was going. What do you think is the way to a Jesus-centered and focused life?

Wednesday

Read: John 15

1. What must we do to ensure our "joy in complete" according to verses 9–14?
2. According to verses 18–21, what is the fate of someone who follows Jesus?

Reflect: According to this chapter, what are the advantages and disadvantages of following Jesus? Why are you a follower of Jesus?

Thursday

Read: John 16

1. What reason/s does Jesus give when he says "It is for your good that I am going away"?
2. In verses 16–22 what was it that Jesus said would make the disciples grieve and what would make the disciples joyful?

Reflect: What promises does Jesus make to those who follow him?

Friday

Read: John 17

1. According to verses 1–5, what authority did Jesus have?
2. According to verses 6–11, what requests did Jesus make on behalf of his disciples?

Reflect: According to verse 20–21, who was Jesus praying for ... and what was the one request he asked for?

Saturday: *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*