

“To Bear Witness of the Light”

HOW TO BE A WITNESS FOR JESUS CHRIST

Lessons About Winning Souls From the Book of John

LESSON 2: HELPING SOMEBODY

(Chapter 2)

People are coming to Jesus in Chapter 2 as they were in the first chapter of John. Verses 11 and 23 speak of people believing on the Lord Jesus. However this chapter is not exactly about direct soul-winning. It is about *helping* people. Often we can open the door to win a soul by helping meet a need. That’s what Chapter 2 is about, and that is what we must learn to do.

1. The Need Element (verses 1-4).

We learn that Jesus and the disciples He had at the time were invited to a wedding feast along with Mary, His mother. After a while *“they wanted wine”* (in other words, they ran out of the beverage). His mother told Jesus of the problem and He rebuffed her a bit, probably in order to squelch any idea that she could get special favors from Him. There is a whole doctrine (a false one) built around the idea that the Son of God can be persuaded by Mary. Some teach people to pray to Mary because she is more understanding than Jesus and will use her influence as a mother to get what you want from Him. Mary-worship is a terrible perversion as well as the sin of idolatry! It is interesting that every time in the Bible when Mary is recorded as trying to get favors from Jesus as His mother, she is rebuffed (See Matthew 12:47-50). But after the sharp words of John 2:4, Jesus did go ahead and meet the need. This involved the performance of His first miracle (v. 11). When we follow the ministry of our Lord, we find Him regularly meeting the needs that folks knew they had: healing (John 4:47), wholeness (John 5:6), food (John 6:11-12), sight (John 9:7), life (John 11:44). We cannot meet people’s needs in the same way that Jesus could, but we can look for needs and do what we can do to meet them. Kindness opens hearts.

2. The Service Element (verses 5-10).

Notice in the story who it was that first recognized the miracle.

“When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew) . . .”
(verse 9)

It was the servants. Notice what they were told in verse 5.

“Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.”

Servants see God work. The Greek word translated “servants” in this passage is *diakonos*, which means a servant who attends to people’s needs. A lot of becoming an effective witness for Christ is learning to be a servant—of the Lord and of your fellow-

man!

“He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.”
(John 12:25-26)

3. **The Supernatural Element** (verse 11).

When we help others, we want them to see God rather than ourselves. The assistance Jesus gave at the wedding feast involved a *miracle*! If there is any way that we can bring God into the picture when we help somebody, we ought to do it that way.

Acts 28 tells the story of Paul’s stay on the island of “*Melita*” (Malta). “*The barbarous people*” of that place were impressed with God’s power on the apostle from their first meeting of him (Read verses 1-6). But then there came the sickness of “*the father of Publius*” (“*the chief man of the island*”). Read the whole story in verses 7 through 10. When he knew of it, Paul “*entered in*” to where the old man was “*and prayed, and laid his hands on him.*” The result was that the sick man was “*healed.*” The result of the healing was that “*others also*” who were sick came to Paul for his prayers, and soon the whole population of the island “*honoured*” Paul and his associates “*with many honours*” and opened their hearts to them. Remember that Paul had a burden for the souls of barbarians like this, and preached the Gospel to them (Romans 1:13-16). In this instance, they became receptive to him because he helped them with the help of God!

We should think a moment about this first miracle of Jesus. He provided refreshments for a wedding

feast when they had run out. It seems to be a minor need for the performing of a miracle, but it shows us that God is interested in “minor needs” as well as big ones. We should be interested in helping people any way we can. We understand that the “*wine*” provided here was almost certainly not the fermented, alcoholic type sold in stores today. The word for many centuries denoted the juice of a grape, whether fermented or not. Jesus called it the “*fruit of the vine*” (Matthew 26:27-29). Since it was made fresh by the hand of God, we suppose that the wine miraculously provided that day was not corrupted by fermentation (decay). We also do not believe that the Son of God would provide intoxicating beverage for people in the light of Proverbs 20:1, Daniel 1:8, and Habakkuk 2:15. Christians can open the door for a Gospel witness if they will actively seek to help others, especially in ways that point to the Lord as the Source of the help!

DISCIPLES AND BELIEVERS!

Notice in John 2:11 that it was the *disciples* of Jesus that “*believed on him*” as a result of this first miracle! Disciple and believer are not synonymous terms! In John 6:59-71 we see that some disciples of Jesus (including Judas) were

not believers. In John 8:30-32 we find Jesus calling on believers to become disciples.

1. A disciple is one that commits himself to follow and obey Jesus without reservation. The principles of discipleship are found in Luke 9:23-26 and 14:25-35.
2. A believer in Jesus Christ is one who trusts in Jesus alone for his eternal salvation. His theme verse could be II Timothy 1:12.
3. A disciple should become a believer when he understands that Christ Himself is the way of salvation.
4. A believer should become a disciple in gratitude for God's mercy in salvation (Romans 12:1-2).
5. Committed religious people ought to make sure that they are saved, and saved people ought to make sure that they commit their lives to discipleship.