What Would They Say About a Man That Made Wine at a Party

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Amen, amen, and amen. Well you can all be seated as we prepare again for another weekend word, let’s just—if you would, just bow your heads and a word of prayer.

Dear father, tonight let again thy word go forth and let it go forth with boldness in this courage, without fear, that it may go forth and free, that it may go forth and remove all that is not of you, that it may go forth and bring the Holy Spirit into our hears and into our lives that we may let thy word come alive, that we may let thy word leave the pages and come forth and be made manifest in the flesh. These things we ask in prayer, thy son Jesus’ name, Amen.

And I told you before of what I would be speaking on tonight, and tonight is one of those nights. There have been very few messages that I have been sort of afraid to preach. There have been some that I may not have fully understood, there may have been times when I had no message at the moment, but there are times when revelation has been given and yet you’re kind of scared to preach it because it goes different than what other people have been used to hearing. And even if you know those of you that were here last week, there was some things that will reveal and it was different from what you used to hearing, yet, when you whit and you check the word you found, that it was so.

And so shall it be tonight, some of the things that you will hear will be different than anything that you have heard before, but I beseech you, I beg you, I plead with you to go in check the word. Verify it not by your preacher, don’t go ask them, don’t verify by tradition. Don’t go by which you have been used to thinking and what you’ve been used to doing. Go and verify it by one thing, go and verify it by that which is written, by that which is between the pages of a Holy Bible, that and nothing else.

And tonight, the subject stems from experience. Many of you were here when I preached a sermon called “Bill Collector Be Gone”, and in that particular sermon, I was trying to tell people how to get out of debt, how to keep the bill collector from their door and one of the areas that I talked about was what I call foolish investments, and that in order to keep the bill collector from your door, you needed to stay away from throwing your money away in and stay away from things that you put your money in where you’ve got a return from it. And one of those things that I talked about was the lottery. And I told people that the lottery was a bad investment, that it financially made no sense that everybody that I knew that focused and played the lottery was always in bad financial shape. And even I said that there were even some ministers that gave out even lotto numbers in disguise. That sometimes even on radio broadcast, I remember when we were checking into a radio program and the people on the program said, “Don’t give out scriptures because if you give out scriptures, people will take those scriptures and go play the numbers.”
So I spoke very strongly against playing the lottery from a simple sound financial advice. I told you then that there was nothing in the bible on it one way or another. There was nothing that forbade gambling in the bible at all. But simply from a sound practical financial sense, that playing the lottery was a fooling thing to do. And I preach that sermon and I—in the midst of it, I even facetiously in a joking manner, I gave out four pick three numbers and I said “You all want some lotto numbers, I'd give you some lotto numbers” and I called out four numbers on the top of my head. And that was on a Friday and when I got to work that Monday morning, one of my co-workers came to me and said “Mr. Bronner!” He said, “Do you realize that one of those four numbers that you gave out on Friday hit Saturday?” And I said, “Good grief!” And I said, “Well, coincidences will happen. Sometimes things just arbitrarily happen. I guess there’s some number had to hit so I guess that was just one in a ones that hit.”

And generally whenever a sermon is preached here at the arcade, several weeks will elapse before that sermon will air on television. And weeks went by between when I had preached “Bill Collector Be Gone” and before they aired on television and it aired on television, one Friday evening it came on at 7:30 PM, it came on again that morning at 2:00 AM then Saturday at 8:00 AM and Saturday at 2:00 PM. And Sunday after the sermon had aired, one of the members came up to me and said, “You know I was at home when I was watching the sermon Bill Collector Be Gone, and bill collector's have been calling me all Friday the whole day. And when I heard you preach that sermon, I heard you preach about how silly it was to play the lotto, but when I heard the numbers, I went out and played those numbers.” And he said, “Do you know that number hit Saturday night?” I said, “What?” I said, “Both times, immediately after the sermon went forth, the number fell on either the next day or the same day because it had aired that Friday at eight o'clock in the morning and then 2:00 PM and the number hit at 10:00 pm that night.” I said, “I had them when he told me that was here on a Sunday morning, I was sitting up here on the pulpit and I just had to bow my head and ask and say Lord what’s up with this? Now I knew if it one time, that could have been coincidental, but two straight times in a row?”

See I'm a scientist, I got a heavy math background, I understood statistics and I just ran through the statistics in my head, I knew that that blew all statistics and probability out of the war. And I had to just ask God, “What’s up with this? Here I am trying to give the people sound financial advice and I throw out some numbers to try to tell them don’t be foolish with their money and had these numbers hit each day right after--” I said, “Lord, what is up with this?”

And then as I was at work, after the sermon had aired on television, someone had called me at work and then said, “I was watching your sermon Bill Collector Be Gone and I was listening to what you said about the lottery and I had a grandmother that plays the lottery, and I was going to call and honor you’ll take to
give to my grandmother, to help her see her ways of playing the lottery, and before I could order to take the number hit.” He said, “What’s up with that?” So I knew that I had to address that situation and I was sitting here on the podium that Sunday, I bowed down and asked God—I said, “God, I know this is not accidental.” I said, “Explain to me what has happened with those lotto numbers falling.” And God answered me in one sentence, and in that one sentence, the more I look at it and the more that I studied, the more revelation began to unfold. And I am going to take as my subject tonight, that one sentence that God told me. It’s the longest subject that I’ve ever had and yet within that sentence, explain some things to me and caused me to do some research and some revelation to be unfolded that’s going to be a little bit different I guarantee you from anything that you’ve ever heard coming out of a pulpit.

And God said to me as I asked him, “What was happening with those lotto numbers that were falling immediately after I had preached them?” And this is what he see it and this is what the title shall be for tonight, “What Would They Say About a Man That Made Wine at a Party?” That’s what he told me, what would they say about a man that made wine at a party? And you see as I studied that—now I want you to turn to the Book of John, that’s first John, Matthew Mark Luke John, turn to John, we’re going to be starting in the first chapter of John. And you see that particular statement that God told me, “What would they say about a man that made wine at a party?” I knew it instantly what he was talking about, I knew that he was talking about Jesus and I knew he was talking about the situation where Jesus had turned the water into wine. And can you imagine what would happen today if a miracle worker came and that at a wedding feast, and that’s what the feast was, a feast is just an ancient word for party. What would happen if a miracle worker came and made alcohol at a party? What would people say? And I want you to start—I’m going to start reading and I’ll be reading in the NIV version, John first chapter, beginning with verse 47 and this verse, it’s a preface to that which I’m going to talk about. And first John, Chapter 1:47, when Jesus saw Nathanael approaching he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite in whom there is nothing false.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabi, you are the son of God, you are the king of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree, you shall see greater things than that.” He then added, “I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the son of man.”

Now that’s the verse before, I’m getting ready to read the next verse which begins into the story. I read that particular verse because he was talking to Nathanael, that’s my name. And he was talking to Nathanael and he said, “Here is a man in whom there is nothing false” and what I want to do is to bring to you the true uncut
word of God. Without having to water it down, without having you—now I think goodness, that’s one reason and I’m not owning any salary, I don’t get paid a dime for preaching. I don’t have to worry about if you don’t put any money in the collection plate. If I preach hard and I’m in fallout and folks stand up and shout, I won’t get one dime more. If you sit there and you mum all night and froze and stiff, I won’t get one dime less.

So fortunately, I’m not motivated by money because money can make a difference. When you got bills to pay and everybody got house notes and car notes and utilities and got to buy sharp clothes, you have to preach to make sure you get money, I don’t have to do that and I thank God that he’s relieved me of that burden. I can tell you the truth without having to worry about you all cutting my salary. I’m getting zero from the church now in terms of a salary and I’m going to get zero when I get to preach at night. I get zero next year if somebody see us on television and they send in a million dollars, I’ll still get zero. If they’re sending nothing I’ll still get zero.

So I have been freed from having to worry about what I say and it affecting my money. It won’t affect my money. God has blessed me in other areas so I don’t have to worry about preaching to folk, trying to get more folk in to try to get my salary up. So I can tell you the truth. I don’t have to cut through it with any kind of water down stuff. I’m going to tell you just like it is, just like it is in the word. And Jesus said, “Here is a man and whom there is nothing false” and I’m going to do my best not to have anything false.

Continuing on to the next verse in John Chapter two, beginning with the first verse, follow along with me as I read. On the third day, a wedding took place in Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him they have no more wine. “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied, “My time has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing each holding from 20 to 30 gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water” so they filled them to the brim then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquette.” They did so, and the master of the banquette tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants withdrawn the water knew. Then he called the bride and groom inside and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guest have had too much to drink”. But you have saved the best until now, this the first of his miraculous signs Jesus performed in Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory and his disciples put their faith in him.

What would they say today about a man who made a wine at a party? And you know before I had discussed the water turning into wine with several highly
religious people. With even some ministers and you don’t know most Christians
don’t want to believe Jesus made real wine. I mean I had one man who said, “No,
no. Jesus didn’t make real wine. He made grape juice, it was just a special good
grape juice but it wasn’t wine. No, not my Lord, my Lord didn’t make wine. It was
just rich and wholesome and healthy, pure grape juice. You see that’s where they
got it misinterpreted, he didn’t really make wine.”

Then I was telling my mother even what I had received in she was talking with one
of her prayer partners and the prayer partner said, “You go to understand, see the
water that Jesus used was a different kind of water. It wasn’t regular water. He
made water from wine and see that was different from the regular wine that folk
drink.” And then another man said, “Well, it didn’t really say that he actually did
it, it just said he had them bring the pots and when they took it to the man it was
wine, it never said that Jesus really did it.” None of the Christians wanted to
believe that Jesus made real wine. Nobody wanted to think that their Lord and
savior—you see wine is alcohol. Alcohol is even until this day the number one
intoxicating drug in America. There’s nothing else even close. There’s nothing even
close, it’s the number one intoxicating drug in America today just like—it’s not
marijuana, if you leave this church right now before you get home, you will pass by
several liquor stores. Before you get home, you will not even pass by anybody on
the corner selling marijuana or crack or cocaine or heroine, but you will go by
several liquor stores and it’s Friday night.

When you pass by those liquor stores, they will not be empty. And I’ve got another
sermon just from an observation I made as I was passing by liquor stores. Do you
know there’s no handicap parking at liquor stores? If you ever drive by a liquor
store, there’s no handicap parking. And I said, “Why is it that everywhere else, the
handicap can—” you know—they will get out, they are hobo, they’re on a wheel
chair, they will get to their liquor. You don’t have to have a handicap spot right up
at the door.

So there’s no handicap parking at the liquor store unless you know folk would do
what they want to do. They’ll get what they want to get to and they’ll give you
every excuse in the world on why they can’t get to church on time, but they can get
to the liquor store even with no handicap parking.

So there’s a truth that wine or alcohol or ethanol which is the active chemical
ingredient in wine and all other liquors. It’s the number one drug today, it’s the
number among adults, it’s the number one among teenagers and it was a number
back then. And yet, Jesus made real wine and I believe that’s exactly why they put
it in here, that this man who tasted the wine. And you see he said, “You have saved
your best wine until last” where it was customary that you would use your cheap
wine at the end. Do you know why you use the cheap wine at the end? Because the
people would be drunk, it was a party, and when you’re drunk, you can’t tell cheap
wine from good wine. So the people brought the good wine out first while the people were sober. See, that would have made any difference had it had been grape juice, if it were grape juice, grape juice would taste the same after you had a couple grape juice or whether you’d had a gallon of grape juice. The only difference is to how you couldn’t tell was if you were slightly inebriated, if you were a little drunk.

And this man said, “You have saved the best wine.” So Jesus didn’t just make ordinary regular wine, he made good wine and he made a lot of it. You know I was always under the mental impression because I had to block that Jesus only had maybe one little pitcher, you know like a lemonade pitcher, that he made one little pitcher of wine. Ah-huh, when you read the bible—now the NIV translates what the King James version because the King James version uses a measurement that’s not common in today’s language, the NIV translates it. They had six ceremonial water pots, each holding from 20 to 30 gallons. That means—and they filled them to the brim. They filled them all the way up until they were almost running over. I guess when they say they’re going to get some free wine they’re going to get all they can get. And if you had six pots holding from 20 to 30 gallons each, Jesus made between a 120 to a 180 gallons of wine. You know how much wine that is? And for the longest—for years, for decades, I was imagining Jesus just taking itsy bitsy at the most six little lemonade things and change—no, no, no. Jesus made on the average 150 gallons of wine. And wine weighs about 8.3 pounds of gallon. You multiply that times a 150, Jesus almost close to—you know Jesus made almost 1500 pounds of wine? Do you all know how much wine that is? And he made real wine.

What would they say about a man who made wine at a party? Suppose some miracle came today and you had a minister who came in and went to a wedding feast and made 180 gallons of good wine. What would you all say about that? And that’s what God was trying to tell me, what would they say—it wasn’t just that it was—that he made wine, it was his first miracle. He turned and made the most intoxicating substance on the planet down through the ages, the stuff that has gotten more folk in trouble and he turned and he made a 180 gallons of that stuff on his first miracle.

Now all of your logic and all of your common sense would say, “No, no Jesus wouldn’t do that. Not my Savior, not nearly 200 gallons of wine”, and you know how deadly wine is or alcohol? Not only is it the number one intoxicating drug in America, it kills more people than any other drug on America. People think that cocaine and crack—no, no, no. Wine, alcohol kills far more people than cocaine or crack. It kills more people than cocaine or crack just in the alcohol-related traffic deaths that occur. There are approximately 40 to 45,000 people a year that are killed in car accidents and over half of them alcohol is involved in. We think of violent crime, most of our violent crime is domestic crime and in domestic crime, 60% of the homicides are alcohol related, not illegal drug.
For those of you that are married and if you’ve ever been in an abusive relationship where your husband or your boyfriend has been beating up on you, you know that every time you’ve got that whipping, that rascal has been on alcohol in nine out of ten times. It’s one of the most destructive elements on the face of the earth. Doctors will tell you that if a woman is pregnant, don’t drink alcohol. So why would Jesus make such a substance? And see, even though it’s bad today, it was just as bad back then. The bible talks about it, why would Jesus make nearly 200 gallons of alcohol? What would they say about a man who made wine at a party?

And not only did Jesus make wine, Jesus drunk wine. And I know a lot of—no, no. Not my Lord. C. Elijah will tell you that he and I had a discussion, it’s been a couple of years ago. And I was discussing with C. Elijah and I was telling him I said, “Look, I just don’t believe that Jesus drank wine.” C. Elijah said, “I think so.” I said, “I just don’t believe that Jesus drank wine” and C. Elijah pointed me to some scriptures, in over in Matthew 11:19, you don’t have to turn that, because you’ve heard it a hundred times. And it says, “The son of man came eating and drinking and they say he was a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners, but wisdom is proved right by her actions.” They said the son of man came eating and drinking, and that’s what C. Elijah was trying to tell me then. He said, “It’s all in the bible that Jesus came eating and drinking.” I said, “Well it didn’t say what he drank.” I said, “He wasn’t drinking any wine”, because I could not believe in my spirit that Jesus would drink an alcoholic beverage. There was something about it that just went against my whole grain that I just couldn’t even believe. And yet as I did further research I found that C. Elijah was right.

Over in Matthew 27:34, as they were taking Jesus to be crucified, and they said there they offered Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall, but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. And over in John 19:29 it reads, “Our jar of wine vinegar was there.” So they soaked the sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk talk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” Now the NIV uses wine vinegar, the King James Version simply uses vinegar. But the actual word means sour wine.

The last thing Jesus did on the cross was took a sip of wine. Now many of you—that’s why I told you, this is going to be some stuff that you’ve never heard before that’s why I want to go read it for yourself. Even Jesus served it to the disciples. So to let you know that even though wine had in it, the potential for some very heavy duty great destruction, like no other intoxicant on the face of the planet, even Jesus partook of it and it was his first miracle. Yet if anybody came today and did the same thing, what would they say about a man that made wine at a party? And even wine throughout the bible, God used it in many of the offerings and the sacrifices and over in Genesis, you don’t have to turn them, I’m just going to read some quick verses. Genesis 14:18 “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and
wine. He was priest of God Most High.” And you see Jesus was in the order of Melchizedek, and Melchizedek brought out bread and wine.

When Isaac was blessing what he thought to be Esau over in Genesis 27:28, he said, “Therefore Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, And of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine.” And that meant food and drink, and even in the blessing, wine was included in the blessing. There are dozens of more verses that are very similar and say the same thing of how even within the blessing of God, wine was included. And you see I'm getting to a point and I understand why when God gave me the verse “What would they say about a man who made wine at a party”, he knew I would research that and understand the connection because there is a connection between the wine and the lottery. They are both very similar.

And you said, “Pastor, I don’t see any connection between wine and the lottery.” You will on a few minutes. There is a connection between wine and the lottery. Now the bible does give you some very stern warnings on wine. Don't leave that part out. The bible says over in Proverbs 20:1, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived, thereby is not wise.” Over in Titus 2:3, the bible says, “Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach them what is good.” It told even the women. Basically it said don’t drink too much wine, and they key is Titus did not think don’t drink any wine nor anywhere in the bible.

Now there are some parts where certain men were forbidden to partake of any fruit of the vine. Those that were specially consecrated, especially those under the Nazirite vow could touch no part of wine, but those who are for special chosen people. They had a special diet all the way around it, when just wine they couldn’t touch, but many other things. And in this verse Titus is telling the women, he says, “Don’t gossip”, that’s what slander would mean. Don’t gossip and don’t drink too much wine. He didn’t say don’t drink any because that was never forbidden by God. And over in Proverbs 21:17, “He that love at pleasure shall be a poor man, he that love with wine and oil shall not be rich.” Over on Isaiah 5:20 “Woe to those who call good evil and evil good, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champion at mixing drinks.”

There are many verses and perhaps the most famous of those is Ephesians 5:18, “And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the spirit.” So the bible tells you in many instances don’t drink too much. Don’t be drunk with wine. “Well pastor, you’re telling us it’s all right to drink but just don’t get drunk?” Now, the bible tells you that. Now my recommendation is that you not touch liquor at all. That you not touch wine at all. I do not drink and I don’t recommend anybody who
does drink. Nobody in my household drinks, I'll never teach or allow my children to
drink because alcohol leads to some pretty other worst stuff for a lot of people.

Now, about 85% of people can handle alcohol with no problem and they never take
it to excess. But you got that one out of ten that alcohol will take down to the pits of
hell, it will destroy their finances, it will destroy their body, it will destroy their
marriages, it will destroy their sanity and it will have them captivated with a spirit.
That’s why they call alcohol spirits because once you come under the influence of
alcohol just as if you come under the influence of a drug, you will under—and you
will be in control by another spirit and you can’t even help yourself and you have
now become slave to something of the earth, and man was suppose to have
dominion over all things of the earth. Once you’ve come under the spirit of alcohol,
the earth then has dominion over you.

So no, I don’t recommend anybody to start drinking alcohol, but it is not forbidden
in the bible and even Jesus himself drank wine. Even with the qualifications of
deacons over in Timothy 3:8 it says, “Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of
respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine.” So that means according to the bible
that anybody, even a deacon in the church cannot indulge in much wine. A little
wine, but not much wine and all through the bible every verse that deals with wine
says the same thing. And over in Timothy again, in Chapter 5, verse 23, Timothy
says “Stop drinking only water and use a little wine because of your stomach and
frequent illnesses.” They tell him that to go ahead and drink a little wine to help
his stomach out. But you see anything in excess, whether it is wine or whether it is
food becomes destructive.

And what God was trying to bring to my enlightenment when he told “what would
they say about a man who made wine at a party”. God was basically trying to get
me not to judge that which he had not forbidden. You see we’ve gotten into the
habit in the church of having our own rules and morality, of making our own ways
that God never said and it’s not necessarily that they’re not correct. But we will
often times judge people who drink moderately, socially and we look down on them
because we don’t drink. I never will forget one night, there was a man that was
stuck at a service station and there was—you know one of those service station—
they don’t have mechanics or service stations anymore. So he was out there in a
van and his tire was flat, and he didn’t know how to get his tire out; he don’t know
anything.

And I stayed there with the man and helped him for about an hour to find his tire,
give him instructions and get him back on the road. And the man was—he was just
so grateful he wanted to come to me and he just said—he didn’t have any money on
him, but he had in the back, it was full of groceries. And he went back in the back
and he pulled out a big six pack of jumbo tall beer cans. And he said, “I don’t have
any money to give you but I just want to give you something.” He said, “Just take
this.” And I looked at him and I said, “I don’t drink.” And I look back on that instance now and realize that I really see it the wrong thing because I was seeing it in the spirit that I don’t drink and you ought not to be drinking.

You see that’s what I was really seeing sometimes when we say things that’s what we really mean is I’m better than you. I don’t do that. And you know that’s what I was really saying as I look back on it, I should have just refused him, I said, “No, it’s not necessary.” But no, that’s not what I said, I said “I don’t drink.” Now what difference did that made him? See that only made him feel bad and I understand the man could have just been casual drinker. He may have—as long as he wasn’t over indulging, as long as he wasn’t getting drunk, he was breaking no law that God ever made. But I judged the man simply because I didn’t do it, and that’s what God was bringing into me even about the lottery situation. You see there is no forbidding of gambling in the bible at all. As a matter of fact, there’s much forbidding of wine than there is of gambling. There’s not even a mention of gambling in the negative.

Now it does mention gambling quite a bit. Do you know what it’s called in the bible? It’s called the casting of lots. The casting of lots, that’s where the word lottery came from. Lottery is derived from the casting of lots. And do you realize that they had lotteries in the bible? Now a lot of you also—“Wait a minute pastor, wait a minute. They didn’t have any lot--” they had plenty of lotteries in the bible. They cast lots a whole lot in the bible and you all may need to see this, so you’re going to believe it. And you see we judge people on so many different things and I was guilty of that because I knew the financial things of a lottery and I told people, I said I told them it was not forbidden but it was stupid, that it was foolish. But see that was a judgment on my part and with some people that don’t have other options, and my little brother and I had a conversation about this and he was telling me, he said, “Listen you got many ways of outs.” He said, “But some people, that’s the only door there.” And he said, “How do you know that in the way God works? You can’t tell that fellow who hit that lottery and was able to pay his bills off to debt on day”. You’d have hard time trying to convince him that and I said, “Well I guess you got a point.” He says, “How can you judge, how do you know the way God works if it’s not forbidden?”

You see we have enough problem trying to not do the stuff he told us not to do. And we judge other folk on the stuff that he’d never even told us about, he never—and see gambling is nothing new. It will be different if it was a command where God says, “Don’t surf the internet” when there was no internet back then, that’s different. But gambling is nothing new. Gambling has been here—do you know when they said they—when Jesus was crucified and they cast lots for his clothes that was gambling. Gambling has been in the bible, never even mentioned a prohibition on it. But yet, we judge it and yet, even though we judge one form of gambling, we don’t judge another form. Do you know what was the largest legalized
gambling in America before the lotteries became legal? Bingo, yeah. Church bingo was the largest legalized gambling in America before the lottery became—in the church, bingo.

And we had little old ladies every time the bingo game was on. They were sitting there, betting their money, waiting on bingo. Bingo, bingo! Didn’t have handicap parking at the bingo club either. On a K, bingo, bingo. Bingo all day long. The church sponsored the largest organized gambling arena in America before the lottery became legal, and we didn’t judge that.

You didn’t cast the church down because of that. You didn’t condemn the church because of bingo, and yet when it was another form—but I don’t do that. You played bingo, but I don’t do that. You see we judge so many things and often times as many things like I said God has never even forbid. And this was a part of where he was opening up my eyes to. And even though everything that I said was correct, the lottery and wine are very similar and I understand now why he used the analogy of a man who made wine because they are very similar. Both of them were used by God for many of his purposes and I'll show you in a minute where he use the lottery. Yet both of them have within them whenever they are taken to excess the seeds of great destruction.

I had a friend of mine that I went to college with in Florida, and I had to fly down to be with him and his mother had fly down, his sisters had to fly down and a couple of others of his friends had to fly down. And we had to fly to Florida because he had gotten hang up in a gambling addiction, and he had lost everything he had. He had spent all of the family’s rent money, he had taken all of the money out of the bank and spent it and he has some loan sharks after him. And we sat there before we met with him because his sister had gone and got him a gambling counselor and the gambling counselor says, “Before you even tell him that you’re coming, all you need to come down a day before hand and meet with me and let me kind of explain to you the problem that you have with gamblers.” And he was saying how gambling now, the more available something is, the more addiction you get.

And what is happening now with the availability of the lottery, the gambling addiction is increasing tremendously. And he said, “Gambling is even a stronger addiction than drugs.” And he says, “What would happen if you gave an alcoholic or a drug addict $10,000.00?” He said, “If you gave an alcoholic or a drug addict $10,000.00, they can go on a bench with that $10,000.00 or hold them for a while.” He said, “You got to give a gambler $10,000.00 in a quarter because he can go and blow that whole $10,000.00 in a flash and would need a quarter to call come pick him up.”

So he went to explain to us how gambling now has taken on an exponential rise in America. And he said, “It used to be where me and with a primary people that were
addicted.” He said, “Now, the largest increase in gambling is among women and once the addiction hits, it’s hard to break it. He says, “Just as hard as drugs. So wine and the lottery have very similar characteristics, and yet even within the bible God used it. And the largest gambling arena still is not the lottery, the largest gambling arena is not bingo, the largest gambling arena is not Vegas. And you say, “Well, pastor I haven’t know a place, what do you mean somebody on the street, a private office pulpit? No, no. The largest gambling arena is the stock market. More money is won and lost in the stock market than anywhere else by multiples. And that’s all it as gambling, if you knew how the stock market work, you’d understand it. You can leverage some stuff, margin some stuff. You can place some odds, people lose millions of dollars and make millions of dollars everyday in the stock market.

And when I went with my friend down in Florida to the Gambler’s Anonymous Meeting, a third of the people there where there for addiction and from losing everything in the stock market. Not in the lotto and not in Vegas, and these were not men—and there were those were mostly men. And these we’re not where men that you think seeing. These were men who make six figure salaries. These were bankers, they were executives, there were company presidents, they were the elite and they had lost and had an addition to the stock market.

So gambling comes in all forms. But yet, the casting of lots was all through the bible and God spoke to the people through lotteries. And when I had to research that and see it, let me just show you some of it, one of the ones that you’re most familiar with. When Jonah got on the ship and the storm came, how did the sailors find out where the evil was coming from? Do you remember how? They cast lots. Jonah won the lottery. The lot fell upon Jonah and that’s what the bible says, and that all there was, whenever it felt that won, you see that’s all—and the bible never tells you what instruments they use. They didn’t tell you whether they used straws. They didn’t tell you whether they used pieces of paper. They didn’t tell you whether they used coins, the bible does not even tell you what the earnum and the thernum is, that’s what the priest used which was a form of the casting of lot. It didn’t tell you what they used. You know why they don’t tell you what they use? Because if they told you that they used coins and see that the simplest form of a lottery that we know of is flipping a coin. That’s all it is.

It can get more complicated from the simplest to the most complicated, but that’s what it is. So even when Jonah got on the ship and they knew that it was a designed judgment coming upon the ship, the soldiers knew in their spirit that this was it was, they held a lottery and Jonah won the lottery. That’s how they found out. Over in Leviticus 16:8, “And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat.” They even cast lots to see which goat they would use. One that won one lottery he got sacrificed and the other one got to go free. They cast lots for land ownership.
Over in Joshua 18:6, “After you have written descriptions of the seven parts of the land, bring them here to me and I will cast lots for you in the presence of the Lord your God.” And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the Lord and there Joshua divided the land under the children of Israel according to their divisions. Even the land was divided up but according to who won which lottery, and that was an old fashion lottery. Now some people will try to do the same thing that they did with the wine, “Oh no that wasn’t--”, yes it was. That’s where the derivation of the word, the techniques changed, the forms changed, the purpose changed, but what it was, was exactly that.

And God spoke to the people through the casting of lots. They casted lots to determine which job you got. Over in Zacharias in Luke 1:9 Zacharias talking about him according to the custom of the priest office. His lot was to burn incense when he went into to the temple of the Lord. Now here is the father of John and his job was determined because he won the incense burning lottery. When they cast the lottery, the lot fell upon Zacharias. It’s all through the bible. In 1 Corinthians 24:31 they also cast lots just as their brothers and the descendants of Aaron, in the presence of King David and Zipporah, Amalek, and the heads of families of priest and the of the Levites, the families of the oldest brother were treated the same as those of the youngest.

Young and old alike, teacher as well as student cast lots for their duties. They all determined their jobs through a lottery. In 1 Corinthians 26:12, these divisions of the gatekeepers through their chief men had duties for ministering in the temple of the Lord just as their relatives had. Lots were cast for each gate according to their families, young and old alike. The lot for the east gate fell to shimmer and it goes on and on, telling about how even the lot for the south gate failed to obey Adam. You heard so much about obey—yeah he got his gate through the lottery and we never knew these things or if we knew them, we pass them by.

They cast lots to even determine where they lived. Over in Nehemiah, Chapter 11 verse one, “Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem and the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out every 10 to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns.” It’s all through the bible and you say, “Well all that stuff you read?” That’s in the Old Testament.” That’s in the Old Testament. Well you have read the New Testament very good, if you don’t think casting of lots was in the New Testament.

Over an Acts 1:22, beginning from John’s baptism until the time when Jesus was taken up from us, for one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.
So they proposed to men, Joseph called Barsabas, also known as Justus and Matthias, then they prayed, “Lord you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry which Judas left to go where he belongs. Then they cast lots and the lot fell to Matthias. So he was added to the 11 apostles. Now, here with the disciples of Jesus and when Judas went to hang himself, the disciples of Jesus said, “We have got to replace the missing disciple so we can bring our number back to 12.” And they had two good candidates, so what did they do to find the candidate? They prayed to God and held a lottery, and Matthias won the lot. All through the Old Testament and even in portions of the New, they cast lots.

So there was never a prohibition from God, yet our modern view because of tradition is the same as our view of wine and we look down upon other people who do things, yet it is not prohibited by God as long as it is within moderation. And that’s what God want to show me and that’s why he let the very words of my mouth, as I was speaking out, making fun or mocking, God let the very words of my mouth come back and slapped me in the face. He let the very numbers that I called out fall to show me and to make go back and see that that was not against his word. And that’s I say tonight, you’re going to hear some things you’ve never heard, that’s why you go back and you check it from the word.

Don’t ask your pastors because any—don’t ask your pastor, because --that’s with the devil. That’s what the devil--well, so is wine if that’s the case and yes, a demonic spirit can inhabit you when you’re under the influence of wine, just like a demonic spirit can inhabit you when you’re under the addiction of gambling. And there are some folk that are addicted to gambling, that are addicted to the lottery just like they are addicted to wine. But God never prohibited the wine and He never prohibited the lottery, He prohibited the addiction. He prohibited the drunkenness. He prohibited you coming under another spirit and letting another spirit take control of you. That’s what God prohibited.

What would they have said about a man who made wine at a party? So it made me go back and just—and he wanted me to minister this message because so many of us judge other folk. Oh sure, and we judge folks, and we judge anybody else, always on the stuff we’re not doing. See, that’s what we know, we don’t judge folks in the stud, we’re doing wrong. It’s only in the stuff we’re not doing. We will judge other folk and say, God is not—they’re judging people based on somebody’s—you know we judge folk if they’re not smoking and if they’re not drinking, and they’re good Christians. God never said that. God is concerned about the heart and God would rather have a person standing up in a lotto land, getting ready to buy them a hundred dollars worth of pink three’s, with a wine, with a bottle of MD 2020 in the hand, taking a sip but has no hate against their brother.
God would rather have that kind of man and will sit up in church all so dignified, all holy, not doing this, not doing that, but can't stand and won't even speak to the person sitting next to us. Won't even go home and even talk to your brother, can't get along with the folk that are close to, you got hate all within your heart and then will look down on another person. “Look at that poor man going to get his lotto ticket, that's a shame job.” And you all know that's the truth. God has never forbidden and all of the stuff God talked about, especially Jesus in the New Testament, none of that stuff was the external stuff. It was a stuff of the heart, not the external actions.

And that's why when Jesus made the wine. He first of all made the wine for people that were already drinking wine. He didn't try to encourage anybody to get on wine, and I'm not going to encourage anybody to go play the lottery. Because in all logic most people who do play the lottery do lose their money, but there are some that that's the only conscious level that they have. And I even know that this message was designed for me to preach tonight because I had to take my car to pick it up to be served, so I take it in for service yesterday. And when I got it back, they had serviced the transmission and I got it home this morning and I pull it off and there was a big spot of transmission force, I had to take it back to the dealer today to get them to fix what they messed up yesterday. And I waited on it and while I was sitting there on the waiting room, one of C. Elijah's classmates recognized me and he just started talking. And he said you know a fellow--and it was a fellow who made computer programs and he had done a computer program for me and he told me, you see I'm trying to get him to write me a computer program.” And I said, “What kind of program?” He said, “It's a lottery program.” I said, “What is the very sense he got, he's selling some stuff to you. I said, “It's the very thing I was speaking on tonight, and then a man, come and tell me he getting ready to write a lottery program.” And I told him, I said, I told him my opinion, I said, I don't know anybody that has ever come out ahead in the lottery. He said, “I do.” He said, “As a matter of fact he's a friend of mine”. He had a dream and he went played the numbers in his dream, he put a hundred dollars on it and he won $50,000.00 and that's why he got the money to start his business. So he told me—I had to shut up.

So you see there sometimes—who are you to say I do, I would? I mean God has brought some blessing in some miraculous matters, and who are you to say how it works if it's not—he's not forbidden to do anything as long as it's not against His law. That's why Jesus was not forbidden to make the wine because it was not against His word. There was no prohibition, it was never against His commandment. That's why Jesus never fit folk barbeque, so he never—you know when Jesus manifested the fish, He manifested the cleanest food for the people, he never would have done anything that would have violated the commandment of God.
And I see many of us—we’re seeing that—we’re looking down on folk that’s playing
the lottery while we’re eat on our barbeque grill. We’ll be doing something that God
has told us was unclean and not to do and look down on somebody that’s doing
something that God never said a word about because it is our way of judging people
and see one thing about judging, whenever you judge and put somebody else down,
it always build you up a little bit. It makes you feel better that you not doing what
they are doing like the publican who was speaking he said, “Lord have mercy on me,
thank goodness that I’m not like this man over here. Thank goodness that I’m not
doing what this man is doing dear Lord. Thank goodness that I’m not like that.”
And the other man who simply say, “Have mercy on my sin.” And which one did
God look favorably upon? Because it was a matter of the heart.

So the whole lesson for me, it was not about the vindication of the lottery. The
lesson for me was about judging stuff. The lesson to me was about looking down on
folk and what people did because some people seen many times, people are giving
more than others and you can’t say what you do you get in that situation. You
know you can’t say what you do when you got a bill piled up on you and you see no
way out and you might not have a $2.00 in your pocket and you hear a number on
TV and it may be your last $2.00, but you may not know you can’t say what you do
because many of us have never been in that situation when you’re back is up
against the wall. And a man may say, “Well, I don’t got a $2.00 anyhow, if I play
this on the lottery, I may not win but then you’re going to make this $2.00 lottery.
So let me--” and see I may look upon that and say, “Why is that fool going to put his
last $2.00 on that?” Who am I to judge what God has not forbidden?

It's as simple as that and even I was talking with my little brother again and he
really can come out with some pretty deep stuff. He said now, “You remember on
your prayer list, you said that God would bless all people.” He said, “Now you got
mechanisms where he can bless you in many different ways.” He said, “You know
some folk”, and he says, “Suppose God gave you some numbers to give to the folk,
what would you do then?” I’ll just try and go see him. I said, I said, I ain’t going
seeing him. I was like, “I’ll just not going to do that again.” And he said—and do
you know that the Sunday, the odd thing about it, the Sunday after the fellow came
up and made that testimony that he had heard that television program and going
out and played that number and had helped get him out of debt as I was walking
out of church somebody asked me, give me a number and do you know it instantly
one popped up in my head, I won't saying it—I wouldn't say a word about that.

Because you see that just—I’ve just—it ain’t my style, I don’t want to be known as
those lottery preacher, I just don’t know want to be known as that. And some
things—you know, I just don’t want to be known as it. You know I would never
have made that wine, I would have never made that wine because I don’t drink, I
don’t do that kind of thing. And I would have never made that wine. As a matter of
fact, if it was up to me, I would be bringing prohibition back then. I will eliminate
all that drinking because I know what it does. I'll shutdown every liquor store, I'll
clear all the liquor out of everywhere from Chivas Regal all the way down the
Thunderbird. I'll clear all out if it was left of to me. No I wouldn't have made that
wine.

So you see sometimes—because it just ain't my style, I don't do that kind of thing.
You see so that's the—but see, it never was against God's word. And so my brother
even as he hit me with that, he said, “Now suppose God did tell you some numbers
for the people and you didn’t tell them, and they were not blessed.” He said, “That
would have been blown on you half and I'll just have to work without it” I hope he
don't put me in that situation because many times—and do you know in the bible,
God taught folks to do things that were totally against what the folk believed in and
what the tradition was. He told them to do stuff that the folk looked at and they
were --do you know some of the stuff God told folk to do? How silly it appeared,
how against tradition it was even when Jesus came. He made all the traditional
folk upset and they killed him? Do you know what God told folk to do?

And most of the time when people were being led directly by God, it looked like
some of the silliest stuff in the world even when it was their salvation. In the first
instance of wine even in the bible was Noah that was the first mention of it. When
Noah had a vineyard and he went and got drunk and he’s nakedness was
uncovered. That was the first mention of wine, Noah got drunk. But look what God
had told Noah to do, do you know how silly that was? This man was out building a
boat that float and it had never even rained. Do you know how ridiculous that was?

Now see we can look back now and say, “Wow that was so great,” yeah, you will look
behind, besides we look good, but that would be just like now somebody going out
building a spaceship with no motor in it. Saying that the Earth’s gravitational field
was going to cut off and everything was going to float into space. You would think
they would be absolutely crazy. But how do you know God—how do you know what
God has told folk because Noah looked totally silly. So many times the way that
God works is beyond our understanding, but he will always work within his word.

So whenever somebody comes to you—oh that’s why I told you go check the word.
Don’t check tradition. Check the word because tradition has it. That it is
traditional not to drink, not to smoke, but you can do many other things that God
has forbidden.

So we want to be in tune with what God said and in this message tonight, I don’t
want anybody to run out here and go to play in a lottery. That’s what I was afraid
off and that’s why I was afraid of the message because the lottery is just as
destructive to the masses of people as wine is. I just wanted you to understand that
it was never forbidden and don’t look down on somebody because they do it. Don’t
look down on somebody that drinks because they do it, because God never forbade
it. And when we get out of the spirit of judgment, you'll be surprised that if you
don't judge, you'll be surprised how much smoother your life will be. For that which
you judge will come back and judge you.

So I just have to get up here and straighten out my error because I was judging folk.
I was looking down on folk, I was calling folk silly for doing it and it was simply not
according to God's word. So that's why I want to teach you that which is true, but I
want you to understand you know even when Jesus made the wine, it said that
when he made the wine that—but wisdom is proved right by our actions. Meaning
that whatever you do see that actions will prove out the wisdom of it. If you've
taken a little wine every now and then, that's not going to bother anything. But if
you stuck drank, you don't have a quality, you're messed up, your actions prove the
foolishness of it.

If you don't spend all your money on the lottery, your actions have proven the
foolishness of it. So it says—but wisdom is proved right about our actions, the King
James Version says it's the children of wisdom, the fruits of wisdom will show itself.
So just take these words and let all of us walk out of here with a different light on
things and not be so quick to judge others and what other people do, for we may be
judged in the same manner. And by the time we get our own stuff straight, we don't
have too much time left to do too much judging. By the time we get the mess out of
our own lives and by the time we walk and live according to what God has told us to
do, you don't have a whole lot of time to—Jesus put it like this, he said, "By the time
you get the mote of a Lord out of your own eye, then you can worry about the spec in
thy brother's eye." But most of us right now got big old motes in our own eye.
Bigger motes, get this stuff out of your own life, and when you get perfect, then go
and judge somebody else. But until then, reserve your judgment and look and down
bow your heads.

Dear father, we pray tonight that the word brought forth, even though it be strange
and even though not have been heard before, that the truth of this word will go
forth and that it will change the way that we view many things and we will learn to
search your word for what you have said and not what tradition has said. We will
learn to find the ways that you have told us to live and that we will seek your spirit,
and that now we have a Holy Spirit dear father, and for those that hear your voice,
there is no longer a need to cast lots for you have given us the spirit man to lead
and to guide us and to show us the correct way, and keep us from judgment that we
may live in harmony with other men. And let us help where we can, but do not
judge, that we may walk in the path of our Lord and savior Jesus.