

=EVENTS FROM GENESIS=

Lesson 7

The First Drunkard

AIM: to teach my pupils the evils of liquor.

POINT OF CONTACT: Go through some magazines or newspapers and get ten or twelve advertisements about liquor. Show how each ad is a lie. For example, get some pretty girls' pictures, and then tell them what liquor does to a pretty girl and how the advertisement is a lie! The same thing could be true with dignified-looking men, etc.

I. SOME GENERAL TEACHINGS ABOUT NOAH'S DRUNKENNESS. Read Genesis 9:18-29.

1. It happened after a great victory. This should be a lesson to all of us. After a great victory comes, oftentimes weakness settles, and the temptation is not as easily resisted. Always be careful to look out for the Devil after a great victory.
2. Immodesty and drinking are twins. Notice what happened in Genesis 9:21. Notice that Noah was naked after he started drinking. This is very interesting and certainly is true.
3. Children suffer for parents who live in sin. See Genesis 9:25.
4. We must realize that backsliding could happen to any of us if we fail to stay close to God. It happened to David, Peter, Samson, Saul, Solomon, Abraham—and it could happen to you and to me. We must watch every day lest we become a castaway.
5. Noah's sin led his son into sin. Read Genesis 9:22. Each of us has influence and should be careful lest we cause others to stumble into sin.

II. SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS CONCERNING LIQUOR.

1. Sixty per cent of all American people 14 years and older drink. Sixty-nine per cent of all men in America drink. Fifty-three per cent of all ladies drink. (Bear in mind, this starts at age 14.) Drinking is more prevalent in the larger cities than in smaller cities and is least prevalent on the farm. Seventy-two per cent of residents in our largest cities age 14 and up drink, 67% in average cities, 57% in small cities, and 43% who live on a farm.
2. The poor drink less than the prosperous. Sixty-six per cent of the prosperous drink; 58% of the poor drink. Seventy per cent of the people born of foreign parents drink; 51% of people born of native parents drink.
3. By religion, 81% of all Jewish people and 73% of the Catholics drink. Fifty-five per cent of the Protestants drink.
4. Educated people tend to drink more than uneducated. Sixty-five per cent of all high school graduates drink, and 58% of those who did not graduate from high school drink.
5. The average amount of liquor consumed per person in the United States in 1988 is absolutely astounding! In 1988, the average person 14 and older in the United States spent \$320.00 on liquor, drank 55 six-packs of beer, over 10 gallons of wine and/or whiskey, and 2.77 gallons of absolute alcohol. These statistics certainly show us we face a problem of drinking in America, and it has become increasingly worse over the years! These facts compared with previously recorded statistics indicate a terrible increase! How sad!

III. WHAT ALCOHOL DOES TO THE BODY. In the book, Alcohol and People, by Clifford Earl, we have these statements: "In alcohol's action upon the brain centers, it definitely is a depressant.... When a person drinks a 1-oz. glass of whiskey...it acts as a mild sedative helping him to forget his troubles and relax. At the same time there is likely to be a slight reduction of efficiency in hearing, touch, attention. With the next few drinks, the anesthetic action comes into play, affecting the entire function of the brain, judgment, self-criticism, self-control.... There appears to be a gradual change in his personality.... He feels exhilarated, strong, capable, but the exhilaration is an illusion.... As the drinking continues, his behavior becomes more and more uncontrollable.... He talks foolishly.... He is morally vulnerable because the threshold of discrimination between right and wrong has been lowered. Drinking also causes the following:

1. Muscular output to be slightly reduced.
2. Ability to distinguish between intensities of light and sound to be decreased considerably.

3. The time it takes a person to give proper response to a signal to be increased notably.
4. Perception to be diminished.
5. The ability to add to be decreased.
6. The ability to memorize to be lessened.
7. The power of reasoning to be reduced.
8. The ability to make decisions effectively to be reduced.
9. The speed of the eye in following a moving object to be slowed.
10. The control of manual movements, especially those requiring use of the fingers to be greatly affected.”

IV. DRINKING AND DRIVING. Small amounts of alcohol in the bloodstream are often sufficient to affect seriously a person’s ability to drive an automobile safely. There is the lowering of efficiency in the physical skill—reaction time, visual competence, speed control, manual movements, and judgment. The most serious danger, however, is that alcohol causes the driver to believe his efficiency and skill are actually increased so that he takes unusual chances.

1. An editorial in “Christian Science Monitor” reads in part as follows: “The Federal Aviation Agency has found that drinking was a contributing cause in 54 airplane accidents in one year.”
2. The current report of the Indiana Government Task Force to Reduce Drinking reveals the following sobering facts about drunk drivers:
 - 1) Fifty per cent of all highway deaths have alcohol involved.
 - 2) Every 20 minutes someone is killed by a drunk driver.
 - 3) In the United States, 26,000 people die and 1.5 million are seriously injured by drunk drivers.
 - 4) More than 11 million families in the United States have seen a member killed or seriously injured by drunk drivers in the last 10 years.
 - 5) More than 25¢ of every person’s auto insurance dollar goes to pay for damage done by drunk drivers.
 - 6) At any average time or average place, one out of 50 drivers on the road are legally drunk; on the weekends, one out of ten!
 - 7) Drunk driving accidents are the most frequently committed violent crime in the United States.

V. ALCOHOL IN THE HOME.

1. It causes poverty. The special commission to investigate the problem of drunkenness reports that from 25% to 50% of the poverty in any Massachusetts community could be charged to excessive drinking.
2. It influences the children. Yale University made a study and found that of 4,372 cases of chronic alcoholism, 2,799 of these were the children of alcoholic parents.
3. It causes broken homes and much heartache. Only God knows how many homes have been broken, wives have become widows, and children have been left orphans by drink.

VI. WHY DO PEOPLE DRINK? Experts say there are five basic reasons why people drink beverage alcohols in America:

1. Drinking is associated with many customs and traditions in our Western culture. (Teach the pupils here that it is best not to participate in such traditions and not to be in such company.)
2. Social pressure. In a survey taken by Rutgers University as to why people drink, we find these statements:

A Pennsylvania housewife: “People think you are dead if you don’t drink.”
A professional woman in New York City: “I don’t like to be a poor sport.”
A west coast farmer: “You make people mad if you don’t.”
A New Yorker: “You can’t have a soda in a night club. It’s just not done.”
A Kansas City wife: “I drink to be sociable.”
A Wisconsin school teacher: “I don’t care for it at all. I just choke it down,
I guess just to be sociable.”
A telephone man: “All of our friends drink, so we drink, too.”
A young nurse: “I go to a dance and everybody’s drinking, so I drink, too.”

- You might tell the pupils here something of Daniel and the people of the Bible who stood alone.
3. People drink because of the effects it has on them. In other words, they drink **to escape reality**. This certainly is wrong! The Lord Jesus Christ can give us the courage to face reality; our Lord provides a way to solve our problems.
 4. The advertisement and promotion by the liquor industry apparently is very influential. Stress here the importance of not watching liquor commercials on television, and warn children against listening to their devices and tactics.
 5. Some people drink so much they have to have it! This is the alcoholic.

VII. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. Proverbs 20:1, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”
2. Isaiah 5:11, “Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!” Read Proverbs 23:29-35.
3. Habakkuk 2:15, “Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also....” (Stress the importance that no one should sell liquor—carhops, etc.)
4. Romans 14:21, “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” Read Proverbs 31:4-7. This is a tremendous passage.

CONCLUSION: In the Bible there are more than 70 significant references to the evils of drinking comprising more than 160 verses. The Bible has more to say about drunkenness than about lying, stealing, hypocrisy, adultery, pride or blasphemy. Let us paint the darkest picture possible concerning this terrible sin and lead our pupils to hate it with a passion.