

Putting God First

WARM UP



"For the past couple of weeks, the Lord has been speaking to me about boldness, and positioning myself into places and situations where He can use or bless me. He also reminded me of the story in Luke 14: A guy puts on a big banquet and invites all his friends, but they make all sorts of excuses why they can't come - too busy, costs too much, my wife won't let me. It was like the Lord was saying that He had prepared good things (a banquet) for me - and I certainly didn't want to be one of those guys making excuses not to come!

So that's why I came to Promise Keepers Wellington - and God met me there and reignited my love for Him, for worship, for my wife and children, for other men. And it's also why I signed up yesterday to be involved with a prison ministry - positioning myself to be used." Martin

READ Ephesians 5:15-21

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to walk wisely?
2. Why has God designed our lives to be filled with His presence?

BACKGROUND

What fills our lives? It could be our work schedule, our children's activities, our leisure... This reading from Ephesians challenges us to put God first and in doing so, we live like wise men.

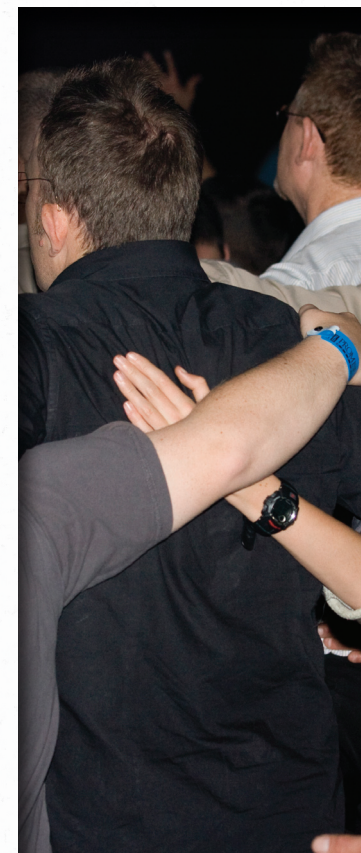
3. Why do you think Paul used the contrast of being filled with the Holy Spirit to that of being controlled by wine?

4. What physical evidence do we see in a man who is putting God first in his life?

CONSIDER THIS

"The early church was a church where men honoured and respected each other. Paul says that the reason for this mutual honour and respect was that they revered Christ. They saw each other not in the light of their professions or social standing but in the light of Christ; and therefore they saw the dignity of every man."

William Barclay



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

By faith in God's command, each day I will ask His Holy Spirit to fill me, resulting in new responses in my relationships with others.

WRAP UP

Together come up with a prayer you can use each day that enables you to focus on God during the course of the day.