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Woe to You who Run After Their Wine

5: 11-12

Woe to you who run after their wine DIG: Who gets hit with the second woe and why? How contemporary does their lifestyle sound to you? What are their offenses? Does their judgment seem appropriate? Why?

REFLECT: Can you identify with this lifestyle in any way? If you were ever a part of it, who could better understand what drunken people in your sphere of influence than you? If not, to reach them you must see them through your heavenly Father's eyes. Can you love the sinner, yet hate the sin? Why or why not?



This is **the second woe** in **Isaiah's** lament. **He** continues to address the wealthy who can spend the whole day, from early morning until late at night, pursuing **their** own pleasure, especially **drinking**. **Woe to those who** were so addicted that **they** had to **rise early in the morning to run after their drinks**. They would **stay up late at night until they are inflamed with wine (5:11)**. **The Hebrew denotes an alcoholic beverage made of raisins, dates, honey or barley, and the like**. Nowhere does the Bible condemn the **drinking** of alcoholic beverages. But the Bible always calls **drunkenness** sin. Here **he** talks about men who rise up early to **run after their drinks**, or **stay up late at night** to continue **drinking**, accompanied by music to set the mood for the evening. **They have harps and lyres at their banquets, tambourines and flutes and wine (5:12a)**. These practices were consistent with idol worship at the time because exciting music and **wine**

always accompanied the feasts (**Amos 6:5-6**).

Then **God** gives the reasons why these practices are condemned in these particular cases. **They** enjoyed **their wine**, but had **no regard for the deeds of ADONAI**. In addition, **they** showed **no respect for the work of His hands**, meaning **they** abused other people made in the image of **God (5:12b)**. Caring only for **their** own pleasures, **they** had no concern for **the LORD** or for others. **Their** spiritual sensitivity had become dimmed. When the passion for pleasure becomes the most important thing in a person's life, passion for **God** is squeezed out. **They** would get into a drunken stupor, only so that **they** could avoid thinking of the mighty **deeds of ADONAI**. By doing so, however, **they** failed to see the **woe** that was about to come upon **them**.