

The First Miracle and the Final Word

Text: John 2:1-12

Nine miles from Jesus' hometown of Nazareth was Cana of Galilee. This was a town located in the territory assigned to Asher, son of Jacob. Asher means happy, and this was a happy time in the life of Jesus on earth, the place of His first miracle. It was also a joyous occasion, for it was a wedding.

Introduction:

- A. Christ, the invited guest. In John 2:2, the Bible says that Jesus and His disciples were invited to this wedding. We not only need to make Jesus the most honored guest at our weddings, but we would do well to let Jesus be the Lord of our homes.
- B. Mary and the expressed need. John 2:3, 4. My father's motto in life was, "find a need and fill it." Mary was not thinking of herself - she saw a need. The refreshments did not last as long as the planned celebration. Evidently, Mary was aware of our Lord's wisdom, therefore brought the need to Him. She knew her extremity was God's opportunity.
- C. The declaration of Sovereignty. John 2:4, 5. Mary utters one of the most simple, definitive statements defining discipleship.
- D. Empty vessels meet for the Master's use. John 2: 6-8. "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Timothy 2:21).
- E. The surprise miracle. John 2:8-9. The governor is surprised at the quality of the fruit of the vine. This is clearly understood to be non-alcoholic, unfermented juice. The bridegroom is delivered from shame.
- F. The theme of Christ's mission. This beginning of Jesus' miracles encloses the message of why Jesus came to earth.

I. THE CELEBRATION IS ABOUT TO BE CUT SHORT

John 2: 1, 2

The wedding feast is a time when the bridegroom proves to the father of the bride and to all who are present that he (the bridegroom) is able to take care of his daughter. To fall short of this expectation would be a great shame in a culture that is honor driven.

II. THE INTRODUCTION OF MARY AS DISCIPLE

John 2:3-5

It appears that Mary may have had close ties by blood or lifetime friendship with the couple that was being wed. Like many family friends, she appears to be helping as a hostess in the refreshments. This is declared to be the beginning of Jesus' miracles. Our Lord did not need to have been performing miracles around the house while growing up to convince Mary that Jesus was the wisest in the household who had an answer for every problem that may have

arisen. Tradition says that Joseph died while Jesus was still in His teens and He was “the Man of the House.” So, it is only reasonable that in this moment of need, Mary would come to Jesus. It would serve us all well to come to the Lord when our needs are recognized. Our Lord addresses Mary as “woman.” This was not a derogatory term, by any means. It was still very respectful, used in that day the way we would say, “Ma’am.” Jesus, knowing the heathen practices of worshipping a female deity as “Mother of God” or “Queen of Heaven” removes the possibility of instituting mythology by saying, “woman” rather than mother. Our Lord is putting to rest Mariology. In Luke 1:28, Gabriel declared Mary, “...blessed art thou among women.” In Luke 1:42 Elisabeth addressed Mary as “...Blessed art thou among women...” Although you will not find a more virtuous woman in the Bible, God said she was blessed “among” women not “above” women.

Mary very willingly accepted this role as disciple as we observe from her statement in John 2:5, “His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.”

III. THE DEFINITION OF “MINE HOUR”

John 2:4b

There is only one explanation of what Jesus meant by “His hour.” John 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 12:27; 16:32; 17:1. It was the hour of His death when our redemption would be purchased at the inestimable price of His life.

IV. THE TRANSFORMATION OF WATER INTO WINE

John 2:6-10

Wine is a symbol of joy. Psalm 104:13-15. Here we see the harvest of God’s bounty brings nourishment and joy to mankind. It is important to note the fact that the governor of the feast made a comment about the timing in which the “good” wine was served. Thus, telling us for all time, our Lord was not “bartending.” Christ is the true joy bringer. In the Old Testament turning water into blood was a curse (Exodus 4:9). Now in the New Testament the water is turned into wine, signifying blessing.

There was no accident in this miracle when our Lord chose six waterpots used specifically for ceremonial cleansing. John 2:13 begins immediately after this first miracle with these words, “And the Jews’ passover was at hand....” The Passover cup was a cup of wine. Jesus took the wine from Passover and instituted the Lord’s Supper with these words, “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28). Christ took the curse of Moses’ law, which we all have broken and by His precious blood He atoned for our curse and gives us the joy of salvation symbolized in this initiating miracle. The only way into real joy is through Jesus and His salvation.

Conclusion:

John 2:11

What does most every single person do at a wedding? They fantasize what it will be like at their own wedding. Repeatedly, the Bible makes reference to Christ as the bridegroom and His church as the bride (Matthew 25:1-10; Mark 2:19, 20; Luke 5:34, 35; Revelation 18:23). Our Lord is showing us in this first recorded miracle, that He was going to find His bride. He would purchase His bride. He would redeem His bride and He would eventually rapture His bride.

In the parable of the Householder and the Vineyard, Jesus said in Matthew 21:37, "But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son." The prophets of the Old Testament prophesied and they were mocked and many were martyred. God sent the Very Best last of all. Last of all He sent His Son. Alas, in Matthew 21:38, 39 Jesus said, "But when the husbandmen saw the Son, they said among themselves, This is the Heir; come, let us kill Him, and let us seize on His inheritance. And they caught Him, and cast Him out of the vineyard, and slew Him."

Hebrews 1:1, 2: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds."

John 20:31 tells us why John penned the Gospel of John. There are three groups in this world.

- 1) The believers: John 2:11 "...His disciples believed on Him."
- 2) The unbelievers: John 12:37.
- 3) The fearful: John 12:42, 43.

Which group are you in?

-Pastor Pope-