

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Miracle Man” (pt. 1) – 5/18/2014

Scripture: John 2:1-11

Bottom Line: In his first miracle, Jesus shows that he brings redemption to our lives and points to the future wedding feast with the church and himself.

INTRODUCTION:

What is a miracle? Have you ever experienced a miracle? In short, a miracle is a supernatural act of God that exists to bear witness about God. The point of a miracle is not the miracle but the power behind it. Jesus' ministry was full of miracles but he didn't do them just for the sake of showing off. His miracles were part of a larger plan to bring glory to God and redemption to humanity.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 2:1-5

Can you imagine how bad it would be to run out of food and drinks at a wedding?

- To run out of wine at a wedding in Jewish culture in Jesus' day was a social disaster that could affect the entire family. Because Jesus lived in a shame based culture, it is really hard for many of us to grasp just how much of a problem running out of wine would have caused.

What was the point behind Jesus' response to his mom?

- The hour for Jesus to reveal himself had not yet come. She knew who he was but the time for everyone else to know had not yet come. At the time, this was a private miracle, done for the benefit of the bride and groom. However, now that Jesus' hour has come and he has been revealed to the world, we see the real significance behind this miracle and it is awesome!

Read John 2:6-11

What is the significance of Jesus using the jars of water that were meant for purification?

- In the Old Testament, a large theme is being cleansed from one's sin in order to be right with God. The sacrificial system reminded the people constantly that they were not right with God. It also foreshadowed the complete redemption that would later come through Jesus. Here, Jesus replaces the purification rites that the jars of water represented. He in affect cleansed the bride and groom by turning the water into wine because he took away their potential guilt and shame.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

How does this story relate to the gospel message?

- Jesus has come to deal with our guilt and shame just as he dealt with the guilt and shame of the bride and groom.
- It is also important to know that this wedding party looks forward to another wedding party. At the end of time, there will be a wedding feast (Rev 19:7) when Christians are finally reunited with God and we dwell together. Perhaps Jesus was thinking about his wedding feast at this wedding in Cana. The people who are part of this wedding feast are those who have been saved by Jesus from their sin.

How do other miracles relate to the Gospel message?

- “We modern people think of miracles as the suspension of the natural order, but Jesus meant them to be the restoration of the natural order. The Bible tells us that God did not originally make the world to have disease, hunger, and death in it. Jesus has come to redeem where it is wrong and heal the world where it is broken. His miracles are not just proofs that he has power but also wonderful foretastes of what he is going to do with that power. Jesus' miracles are not just a challenge to our minds, but a promise to our hearts, that the world we all want is coming.” – Timothy Keller *“The Reason for God”*

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How is this miracle good news for us and not just a good story to us?

- We are like the husband who has failed to have enough wine. But God has shown his glory by sending a Savior and taking away our shame.