

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 2: 1-12

THE MARRIAGE FEAST AT CANA

INTRODUCTION:

John's gospel is written for a specific purpose: that we might believe.

In John Chapter 2 we begin to read of the ministry of Jesus in Galilee.

One of the first things Jesus did after John had identified Him as the Messiah was to place himself amongst people.

After all it was his ministry to people that was important, and was His very reason for His coming to earth. To seek and to save those who are lost.

Luke 19:9-11

⁹ *And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.*

¹⁰ *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

¹¹ *And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.*

The sense of those who are lost are all those people who do not know who Jesus is and therefore have no idea of the salvation that he could bring to their lives.

Those who are lost are not just the heathen gentiles, but the very Jews who would crucify Him.

1. It was these very people that he had come to minister to. So keeping away from people would have meant that there would be no way for Him to minister and have an effect on people.
2. Even today in this modern world of ours, the fact that people are not placing themselves in a place of worship, or in a place to be ministered to is taking away the "effectual healing" that Jesus could have on their lives, and that effect is one of salvation.
3. By staying out of His presence people have committed themselves to unbelief and a place of everlasting wrath from the almighty God.

Jesus here in Chapter 2 of John and in verse 1, tells us of His engagement in a community affair that would have plenty people if not the whole town come to a place for a wedding feast. What an audience.

1. This was a perfect opportunity for Him to present Himself to the people in many different ways.
2. One of the ways, to get the attention of the people there was to perform a miracle.

This is therefore one of those scriptures that is remembered by everyone including the unbelievers today, that Jesus turned water into wine.

- If people could believe that, then why don't they believe in Him?
3. Even though there is many comments around as to why did Jesus turn water into wine, which the heathen says therefore it is OK to drink.
 4. Even though they see this miracle, why don't they then believe the other things that Jesus did?
 5. If they believe that it is ok to drink because of turning water into wine?
 6. Then why don't they then also believe in Him for salvation?
- Instead many arguments have progressed from this act performed by the Lord. So instead of it being used for good, people use it for evil.

I. THE MARRIAGE AT CANA

1. In the times of Jesus day, the culture was very different to ours today.
 2. Weddings were weeklong festivals. Banquets were prepared for many guests, and the week was spent celebrating the new life of the married couple.
 3. Very often the whole entire town was invited and everybody came.
 4. It was considered an insult to refuse an invitation to a wedding.
 5. So to accommodate many people, careful planning was needed.
- To run out of wine was more than embarrassing; it broke the strong unwritten laws of hospitality.

John 2:3-4

³ And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

⁴ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

1. I sense in these two verses two different purposes and two different opinions on what was going on here at this wedding, and what was important to Jesus mother was less important to Him.
2. The reason is Jesus had the people's spiritual welfare at heart and not just the wedding.

3. On the other hand Mary, the mother of Jesus had the wedding as her first priority and that was the most important thing to her.
4. It is strange how our opinions on the same subjects can vary significantly and what can be important to us may not be necessary important to others.
 - Therefore when we look at this passage of scripture, let's not overlook the importance of it.
 - We need to look at it from the same spiritual aspect that Jesus did.
 - That spiritual aspect is that we need to look at these opportunities we have to witness to so many people as a privilege and a great opportunity to share the gospel.

That was Jesus main reason, and it was also to identify Himself to them as the shepherd of the sheep.

He would be the one who could satisfy all their needs and not just the needs of wine at a wedding.

1. The question is: Did Jesus get their attention at the wedding the answer is yes.
2. Did he help His mother: The answer is yes He did that also?
 - a) Perhaps as Mary Jesus mother was speaking to Him, she was speaking to Him as her son. There is an oral tradition which says that Joseph had long since passed away at this time. So perhaps she was asking Jesus as the man of the house to help her in the domestic sense.
 - b) Jesus reply was that of a different approach talking of His crucifixion to come. Jesus was talking in the spiritual realm whilst His mother was still here in the physical realm.
 - c) Jesus and His disciples were all at the wedding as a result of the invitation that had been extended to them all.

II. THE MIRACLE AT CANA

In verses 5-7

⁵ ***His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.***

⁶ ***And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.***

⁷ ***Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.***

- a) In these verses we read of the request made to Jesus by His mother Mary.

- b) You can see that Mary was in part control of the preparation of the Wedding banquet because here you see here ordering the servants to help with the manual moving of things for the wedding.
- c) She had told the servants to assist Jesus in His needs, not really knowing what he may ask them to do.
 - The classic of what happens next will be a shock as well as the biggest surprise ever.
 - Firstly the water pots that were there were being used by the Jews for their ritual ceremonial washing.
 1. People were expected to wash their hands and their faces as they arrived.
 2. Because part of the Jews ceremonial laws were as follows.
 - a) Wash your face and hands after touching your nose or ears.
 - b) Wash your hands after you touched your scalp.
 - c) Wash your hands after going to the toilet.
 - d) Wash your hands after you came back from the market or touching anything that was on your body.
 - e) Wash your hands after greeting someone.
 - f) Many others also.....like the things you touch during the day.
 - So the pots of water were ceremonial pots which had been used to dispense the water for the washing of your face and hands.
 1. Yet it was these same pots (20 to 30 gallons), of water that were going to be used to show a miracle.
 2. So Jesus commanded them the servants to fill the water pots. I suppose they thought nothing of it to put water again in the water pots because that is what they did earlier before the people arrived for the wedding.
 3. The miracle is that when Jesus turned this new water into wine, (whether is was grape juice or true wine), is not for debate here. But what is fact is that it was not water, but what they called wine, and in fact it was the best that they had ever tasted.
 4. When the Lord is involved in miracles it is always a miracle that can never be equaled. Perhaps the wine tasted like wine without the alcohol content. Whatever it was it was good.

III. THE MIRACLE REVEALED

It was not until we get to these verses that we see the miracle that Jesus performed. Neither the people there; nor the servants were aware of what was about to happen.

- If you were there would you be expecting a miracle?

- a) The servants certainly were not expecting anything but hard work to fill the pots of water.
- b) Imagine with me for a moment, no hose pipe or tap around and you had to fill six water pots of 30 gallons each. That would be 180 gallons or approximately 1000 liters' of clean water.
- c) That would certainly have been hard work for which you would require servants.
- d) Remember they were only asked by the Lord to fill the pots, and to fill them to the brim.
- e) At no time were they able to see any other reason behind filling the water ports except for their original intended use of ceremonial washing water.

Verses 8-10

⁸ And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

⁹ When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

¹⁰ And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

- a) By now the servants would have been tired as well as thirsty after their hard and tiring work.
- b) Bucket by bucket they would have to carry the water in.
- c) Remember that this water was not meant to be drunk; it was for purification use.

But now that the stage was set, and no one was the wiser, Jesus said these few words.

- a) ***Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. (v8)***
- b) You see even the governor did not know where it had come from. ***When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;)(v9)***
- c) Interesting enough is the fact that Jesus said to the servants draw the water and feed it to the governor which is to say the master or the person in charge of the wedding feast to drink.
- d) The master was not aware of where it had come from. If he had he probably would not drink from the water pots used for purification.
- e) The servants knew but they did not say anything. Perhaps they found it funny to be serving water to drink from the cleansing pots. (one up on your boss I suppose).

- f) The amazing reaction of the master of ceremonies was one of elation. He was amazed at the quality of the wine which was being served late in the day, and the servants were equally amazed at the fact that he had drank the water, but again also amazed to see that the water that they had served was not just water but was the best quality of wine. **but thou hast kept the good wine until now. (v10)**
- g) So both were amazed.
- h) Is that not how the Lord works?
- i) We are always amazed at what the Lord does and what he accomplishes through us for others?

IV THE MIRACLES TESTIMONY

1. The sheer fact of this act by the Lord, demonstrated to others what He was capable of.
2. It demonstrated that He was able to even help those in the physical world as well as the spiritual world.

His compassion for lost people led Him to prove to them His love for them. His concern for others was a testimony that was not overlooked. (**John 11:35** Jesus wept.)

Verse 11-12

¹¹ This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

1. This was possibly the first time that anyone had seen any miracles done by Him.
 2. But it sure would not be the last.
 3. The scripture says in verse 11 that this was the beginning of miracles done by Jesus which would reveal His glory.
 4. This miracle was not really about turning water into wine. More so it was about the fact that His disciples believed on Him. **and his disciples believed on him.(v12)**
- And so it is with the Lord. Salvation of the lost sheep is the most important thing for Him.
 - When we believe on His name, we can also receive power to become the Sons of God.

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

1 John 3:1

*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the **sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

PRAYER.....CLOSE