

The Good Life

John 2:1-11

A First Century Wedding. _____

A “Luxury” Miracle?

Some critics have compared this ‘luxury’ miracle, as they have termed it, very unfavorably with the merciful acts of healing performed by Jesus. Was it really necessary, they have asked, to supply a wedding party with such an abundance of wine?
—R.V.G. Tasker

Wine in the Bible is a Sign of _____ and God’s _____.

- (Psa 104:14-15 NIV) *He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate-- bringing forth food from the earth: {15} wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.*
- (Prov 3:10 NLT) *Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine.*
- (Mat 26:29 NLT) *Mark my words--I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.”*

The Word “Life” is Found _____ Times in John’s Gospel. _____

(John 20:31 NIV) *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

“THE GOOD LIFE” ACCORDING TO JESUS

1. A Sense of Personal _____ or _____.

(John 2:4 NIV) *“Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”*

2. A Provision for the _____ of _____.

(John 2:7-8 NIV) *Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. {8} Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so,*

3. A Realization of the _____ Nature of _____ in the Spirit.

What about the Stone Water Jars?

- They were used for _____ washing
- They were not part of the _____, but part of the Mishnah
- Rules for washing dishes and hands took up _____ chapters
- “The Jewish practice of ceremonially washing the hands before meals (Mk. 7:1-4) was condemned by Jesus as an instance of scrupulous observance of an outward ordinance of man, practiced at the expense of neglecting the word of God (Mk. 7:6).” —Dictionary of NT Theology, Vol. 2, p. 150

What about the Wine?

- Luxurious in Q _____ (2:7): *“they filled them to the brim.”*
- Luxurious in Q _____ (2:10): *“you have saved the best till now.”*

The Big Idea: Jesus is making a contrast between the ceremonial _____ and the _____ life that would come through his Gospel.

There’s Still More to Come: The _____ of the Lamb!

(Isaiah 62:4-5 ESV) *You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. {5} For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.*

Boldly drawing on a familiar human image of inexpressible joy and delight, God says his delight in his people will be like that of a bridegroom’s delight in his bride. Isaiah explains that in God’s great plan of salvation, he not only forgives his people, protects them, heals them, provides for them, restores them to their home, reconciles them to each other, transforms them so they are righteous, honors them, exalts them above all nations, and makes them a blessing to all nations, as he called them to be—but more than all these things, he actually delights in his people.

—ESV Study Bible, note on Isaiah 62:5

Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 17, 2010

(John 2:1-11, Is. 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Cor. 12:1-11)

Icebreaker: What is the funniest thing you have witnessed at a wedding?

1. Read this wedding story aloud (John 2:1-11). Why do you think Jesus was attending this wedding? What does this tell us about his humanity? His value of community?
2. Weddings were important social occasions just as they are today and to run out of wine would have been an embarrassment. Why do you think Mary asked Jesus to help? How important is protecting the dignity of others?
3. Jesus gentle rebuke to his mother in verse 4 may take you by surprise (See also Luke 8:19-21; 11:27-28). Was he disrespectful, or was there something else involved in his response?
4. Jesus said that his time had not yet come. What does this tell us about his sense of calling on his life? Do believers have a calling or direction from God?
5. What do you learn about the relationship between Jesus and his mother at this stage of his ministry? Is there a message for mothers and sons?
6. Jesus responded with the miracle of turning water into wine. Why do you suppose he chose this as his first miracle?
7. How did the miracle impact those present at the wedding? How might it have impacted his new disciples who were with him? How would you feel if you were one of those disciples?

8. What meaning does the function and size of the water jars have?
9. From Pastor Mark's sermon, what may have been the significance of the ceremonial water being turned into wine? What significance might the quality of the wine have? What does it imply about things to come?
10. Jesus loves to transform people and things. What evidences of spiritual transformation do you see or know about in our world today?
11. John 10:10 tells us that Jesus came so that we might have life to the full (abundant life). What does abundant life mean to you? How have you experienced that abundance in your life? What is the "abundance" level in your life now? Is there any stale water that needs transformation?
12. Verse 11 says that this miracle was a sign. What's a sign? This miracle was a sign of what? How important are signs to you?
13. Pastor Mark referred to God's great delight in his marriage to his people, Israel, in Isaiah 62:1-5. How would you describe the delight of a groom as he waits for his bride to march down the aisle at his wedding? How does God's delight in you make you feel?
14. How does this miracle strengthen your hope in Christ?

Prayer

Pray for the Haitian people in their time of trouble and devastation.

Pray for one another.