**Series: God Bent Down to Lift Us Up**

**Water into Wine: How Jesus Restores our Joy, John 2:1-11**

April 24, 2016

1. Eventually, the wine runs out. (John 2:1-3)

A. John vs. Jesus: Two lifestyles, two callings.

* Matthew 11:18-19 *18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”*

B. A wedding about to be ruined.

* v.3 *When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”*
* Without wine, people would be drinking water for the rest of the week-long banquet.

C. A groom about to be humiliated.

* Delivering a proper wedding feast was actually so important

that if you didn’t provide adequate hospitality for the guests,

you could be sued by the bride’s parents.

* Tight budget or careless planning?

D. A bride about to be disappointed.

* On her wedding day, she’d be looking into the eyes of a man

who had brought shame and embarrassment to her and her family.

Q. Where have you seen the wine run out? Where have you put your hope in the world only to be disappointed?

Q. What’s the balance between enjoying what the world offers (Jesus did go to the wedding after all) but not putting your trust in the world?

2. Jesus supplies better wine that brings greater joy. (John 2:6, 10)

A. The miracle in historical context.

* John Meier (New York Times Book Review): “…ancient Christian, Jewish and pagan sources all agreed that Jesus did extraordinary things not easily explained by human means. While Jesus' disciples pointed to the Spirit of God as the source of His power, Jewish and pagan adversaries spoke of demonic or magical forces. It never occurred to any of the ancient polemicists to claim that nothing happened.”
* G.K. Chesterton: “The world is not lacking in wonders, but in a sense of wonder.”

B. Jesus’ wine is better than the wine that had run out. vv.10, 6

* v.10 *“Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”*
  + Jesus deliberately turned the water into amazing wine because He wanted His followers to know that He brings greater joy than the pleasures of this world.
* v.6 *Now there were six stone water jars … each holding twenty or thirty gallons.*
  + Jesus made 500 to 600 litres (3000 to 4000 glasses) of wine to show that the wine of Jesus’ joy never runs out.

C. Jesus’ wine is better than ceremonial purification water.

* v.6 *Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification …*
* John 15:11 *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*
* Moses’ first sign turned water into blood as a plague of judgment. Jesus’ first sign turned water into wine as an invitation to the joy of salvation.

Q. What do you think is the significance of Jesus choosing the miracle of turning water into wine as his first sign?

Q. What place does joy have in your understanding of faith?

3. The miracle of Jesus’ joy is received with humble, obedient faith. (John 2:4-8, 11)

A. We receive the miracle of Jesus’ joy in humble faith.

* v.4 *“Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”*
* Jesus is telling Mary that where his miracles and messianic ministry are concerned, she now needs to relate to Him as a disciple not as his mother.

B. We receive the miracle of Jesus’ joy in obedient faith. vv. 5, 7, 8.

* v.5 *“Do whatever he tells you.”*
* v.7 *Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.*
* v.8 *And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it.*
* A proud Christian can actually be more miserable than a wine-sipping non-Christian. And a “follower” of Jesus, who doesn’t really follow Him, will never know the joy that He gives.

C. The joy of our gladness was made possible because Jesus drank a bitter cup of sorrow.

* John 19:29-30 *A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Q. What was it that enabled Mary to receive Jesus’ words in v.4 without taking offence?

Q. What are some things that can help us avoid getting uptight with what other people say and do to us?

Q. What is the connection between obedience and Christian joy?

Q. What do you think of the statement, “A proud Christian can actually be more miserable than a wine-sipping non-Christian. And a “follower” of Jesus, who doesn’t really follow Him, will never know the joy that He gives.” Why is that so/not so?

**Notes:**