

GROWTH GROUPS
WEEK 4
WEEK OF MAY 14TH

Spring
2017

GROWTH GROUP SPRING 2017

WEEK 4 – MAY 14, 2017 - JOHN 2:1-12

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

1) Tell a story about your favorite family gathering or event.

SETTING THE CONTEXT

The first chapters of the gospel of John present some “signs” that help get us ready for the work and mission of Jesus. John the Baptist comes along “preparing” the way for Jesus. Jesus begins to call his disciples and tells Philip and Nathanael that they will “see” heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending. Then, in John 2:11, we are given another sign.

Jesus turns water into wine and we read that this was the first of the “signs” through which his glory was revealed. And, as the disciples witnessed this, they believed. God’s power was at work at this wedding. Heaven was opened up and the glory of God was revealed.

This is a moment when heaven and earth connect and intersect. For the Old Testament thinker, this was the sort of thing that was supposed to happen in the temple, not out in the real world, or at a wedding. The turning of the water into wine is ultimately a story about transformation. Something has literally changed, which often happens when Jesus is present.

We only encounter Mary, the mother of Jesus, twice in the gospel of John. The other time is at the foot of the cross in chapter 19. Jesus tells his mom in John 4 that his time has not yet come, but in John 19 we see that as he dies on the cross his time does come. Heaven and earth meet as Jesus gives his life. As he takes on the shame and guilt of the world he fulfills his mission that began with his first work in Cana.

The image of a wedding should remind us of the kingdom of God. Revelation 21:2 talks about “the great heavenly feast” that we all one day will enjoy. The water jars which were used for Jewish purification, are now filled with wine, a sign that God is up to something new. It is interesting to note that the transformation doesn’t happen until someone takes the words of Mary seriously.

Even at a wedding the mercy of Jesus is evident. Running out of wine would have been a huge embarrassment for the family, and yet Jesus still helps them out. We should be careful about painting



God into a box and saying there are only certain kinds of issues that God is concerned about. Throughout the gospels, Jesus often met needs in unexpected ways.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

Read John 2:1-12

2:1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." 4 "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 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, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." 11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. 12 After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

- 2) Why do you think Jesus' mom involved Jesus with this problem? Why didn't Jesus see the need and deal with it?
- 3) After this first recorded miracle of Jesus' the disciples put their faith in him. What strengthens your faith? What do you do when you feel doubt creeping in?
- 4) The servants who obeyed Jesus were the only ones who saw the miracle. Can you think of a time when you witnessed some sort of miracle or were a part of something miraculous?
- 5) The master of the banquet wondered why the bridegroom had brought out the best wine last. As you think about your life, who gets your best (energy, money, time, patience, etc.) and who gets the left-overs?
- 6) Mary, Jesus' mother, instructs the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them to. Where in your life do you need to do a better job of following Jesus' instructions?
- 7) Do you think Mary ever had doubts about the mission that was given to Jesus? She had been told early on what he would do and what he would be about, but do you think she knew that ultimately it would lead to him giving his life on the cross?

BRINGING IT HOME

- 8) Mary was more than likely a partner in the earthly ministry of Jesus. What is a practical way that you can partner with Jesus this week in the work that he is doing around you?