



GROWTH GROUP WINTER 2019 – ONE ON ONE WITH JESUS WEEK 1 – MARCH 10, 2019 - JOHN 2:1-12

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

1) Share a favorite story from a wedding you attended. Why do you remember it?

SETTING THE CONTEXT

During the season of Lent we are going to be considering some of the one-on-one conversations Jesus had with people in the gospel of John. Our first conversation occurs between Jesus and his mother. Mary is never mentioned by name in the gospel of John and is always referred to as the “mother of Jesus.” Mary only appears here and near the end of the gospel in John 19:25-27.

The context of the wedding prepares us for the great heavenly feast that we will one day enjoy and is described in Revelation 21:2. The water jars, which were used for Jewish purification rites and ceremonial cleansing, are a sign that God is up to something new. God will bring purification to Israel and the world in a whole new way.

To run out of wine at a wedding was a social disgrace and it could have been perceived as bringing bad luck to the newly married couple. Yet Jesus extends his compassion to the bride and bridegroom and spares them embarrassment.

The language of the miracle is fairly simple. “Fill . . . draw . . . take.” We are reminded that Jesus can use whatever is at hand (ordinary things) to do truly extraordinary things. The one thing that is required, though, is trust. The stewards must do what they are asked to do. It is then that Jesus acts and we see an incredible miracle.

When Jesus speaks about his hour he is ultimately pointing to his crucifixion on the cross. However, this early in the gospel of John, he is not yet fully ready for that hour. He is only letting people know that this is not truly his time. Throughout the gospel of John, Jesus will speak about his “hour” and over time it will become clear that this hour is pointing to his ultimate sacrifice which brings the abundant life he promised to people.



There is a development process of discipleship that John teaches us early on. In chapter one (1:35-51) we read that the disciples trusted themselves to Jesus after they were “found” by him. This process continues in chapter 2 when we read that they “believed” in him. The gospel of John is likely teaching us that following Jesus is an ongoing, daily part of our lives. It is not simply a one time decision.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

Read John 2:1-12

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) Mary and Jesus were guests at the wedding. Why do you think Mary involved Jesus in the issue of the wine running out?
- 3) What are your thoughts on Jesus' response to Mary? When he says “My hour has not yet come.” to what is he referring?
- 4) The guests at the wedding were unaware but the servants witnessed Jesus' miracle. Where in your life are you like the guests, unaware of the miracles around you? Is there something in your life that is keeping you from noticing God's miracles?
- 5) Why do you think this is Christ's first miracle?
- 6) Do you see a connection between the water used for ceremonial washing and the water turned to wine?
- 7) Can you think of a time in your life when God revealed His glory and it strengthened your faith

BRINGING IT HOME

- 8) Often during the season of Lent, people add something to their spiritual journey or choose not to do something. Share if you made a decision to do something like this, during Lent, and also share how it is going.