**Water to Wine**

**Text: John 2:1-11**

Just the mention of a wedding brings back many memories of my youth. Some of our kids in the youth group are asking right now, “Can you remember back that far?” I sure can, as if it were yesterday…

I was 23 years old working in Dallas for Delta Airlines at DFW airport. My job was to install carpet that was worn while the mechanics were servicing the planes.

One weekend I decided to come home to visit mom and dad. While I was there I heard about a youth group meeting going on in Pharr. The youth leaders name was Matthew. I think you’re starting to see where I’m going with this. (Our son named after him). He was having an activity for the church kids in his mobile home. As I came in I gazed slightly to my left and there she was. Laura Vanessa Pliska. Everything slowed down as if I was in slow motion. I got tunnel vision and became unaware of anything else in the room.

Of course she was not in the tunnel with me. I mean I had to work at getting her to like me. But it was well worth it… I was so “in love” that I travelled from Dallas, Texas to the Rio Grande Valley every weekend… 500 miles one way.

Now, some 22 years, 4 kids and many pounds later we are still in love… still happy and there is still no one I desire to be with more than my wife.

**My Visit to Cana**

After visiting “Nazareth Village” in Nazareth, our group hopped on the bus and headed for what is believed to be the village of Cana. The town has not survived into the present but is thought to have been between Nazareth and Capernaum, in the northwest region of the Sea of Galilee. When on the bus I didn’t realize that this was where we were headed. It was not until we pulled up on the side of the road some 14 miles away from Nazareth on the opposite side of a small restaurant did I hear somebody said, “lunchtime.” I asked where we were and one of the people who had done this before said… “We’re in what is believed to be Cana… you know, where Jesus turned the water into wine.”

As I ate my Lamb’s meat swarma I pondered on what had happened in that area more than two-thousand years ago. This was the beginning of the abundance of miracles that Jesus would do in His short 3 years of ministry.

Cana was about 20 miles from the Jordan River where the things in chapter one happened.

* So it would have taken them a couple of days to make the trip to Cana of Galilee.
* After being baptized by John, and calling some of his disciples to follow Him they make their way **to a wedding…**

***The Philosophy of our Day***

The Philosophy of our day is “why get married?

* Why should we have a ceremony?”
* The thought of the day is, If you really love someone just go and live with them… after all love is all that is important.”
* Many today believe that marriage is nothing more than just a piece of paper.”

Personally, when I married my wife I was excited to have the opportunity to publicly show my love for her. With a preacher in front of us… a best man and a Matron of honor to our sides… and a large group of friends and relatives behind us in the pews I proclaimed my love for her by saying I do and placing a ring on her finger.

People should be willing to go public with their love for one another and publicly promise to be faithful to one another.

Do you know what marriage is?

* It is a clear promise before God of a man and woman’s intent to live together with the promise of faithfulness and godliness.

Let me tell you that I am glad for legal, binding marriage because if it wasn’t for the ceremony and the legalities people would be separating every time there was a spat, and that does nothing but harm the poor innocent children that get in their selfish way.

Do you remember what Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:3?

Look there with me…

**1 Timothy 4:1-3 ( NKJV )****1. Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,****2. speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,
3. forbidding to marry…**

Isn’t that what we are hearing today?

* Don’t marry her… don’t marry him…
* It’s a lot easier to just move in together, see how it goes.
* No need for all the **paperwork** and **preachers** and **witnesses** or **GOD!!!**

So, we see Jesus going to a wedding.

* And what does that show us?
* It shows us that He sanctified marriage and the ceremony of marriage.

***The Pressure of Weddings***

When I think about this particular miracle I can’t help but think about my own wedding almost 22 years ago.

* I remember the pressure of getting things ready…
* clothes, best men, rings, church, pastor… etc. etc…

Since my ordination as a minister I have seen many couples “tie the knot” if you will and have notice the intense pressure that each of them had.

* In our culture our weddings are generally a one night event, but there is a lot of preparation for just a one night.
* Can you imagine if the wedding event lasted a week?

Weddings in Jesus' day were week-long festivals.

* Banquets would be prepared for many guests.
* Often the whole town was invited children and all, and everybody would come—
* it was considered an insult to refuse an invitation to a wedding.
* To accommodate many people, careful planning was needed.

According to verse 1…

***“…the mother of Jesus was there:”***

… and in verse 2…

***“And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.”***

Again, it would have been rude and insulting to be invited to the wedding and then not show up,

* and I say this again to show a point… There were a lot of people at this wedding.

***Taking Time for a Celebration***

If you think about it, Jesus was on a mission.

* His mission was to seek and to save that which was lost.
* His mission would end on an old rugged cross where He would purchase salvation for you and me.
* But I want you to notice that Jesus took time to celebrate at a wedding.

You would think that Jesus was too busy to stop what He was doing for a less “important” event such as this.

* But we need to see these social occasions as part of our mission.
* By participating in these events, Jesus was able to be involved with people, the very ones he came to save.

We can learn from this…

* that our efforts to represent Christ should not exclude joyous times of celebration with others.
* We can develop balance in our lives by bringing Jesus into times of pleasure as well as times of work.

You know some see Jesus as a never smiling Messiah who passes judgment on everyone who dares cross His path.

* But that’s just not what I see in the Biblical Jesus.
* In fact part of his rejection by religious leaders was based on their opinion that he enjoyed being with sinners more than was appropriate (see Mark 2:15-16 and Luke 5:30).

Listen to Mark 2:15-16…

**Mark 2:14-17 ( NKJV )****14. As He passed by, He saw Levi the *son* of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.****15. Now it happened, as He was dining in *Levi’s* house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.****16. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, “How *is it* that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?”****17. When Jesus heard *it,* He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”**

Jesus’ life is the most profound statement ever made against joyless spirituality.

***No More Wine***

There came a time during the long wedding feast when the wine ran out.

Look with me to verses 3-4 and let’s see what happened…

**John 2:3-4 ( KJV )**
**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.**

What Mary did shows me that healing begins with recognizing our need.

* What need did Mary see or have?
* The wine was gone and it needed to be replenished.
* Do you recognize your need this morning?
* Are there any here this morning who just feel empty inside?
* Jesus can work a miracle in your life.
* APPLICATION: Maybe you’ve tried everything in your resources to change the circumstances in your life.
* You need to realize there are things in your life that only Christ can fill.
* Let me ask you this. Are you willing to do what He asks you to do?
* Are you ready to obey Him?

Tradition says that Joseph, Mary’s husband, was dead, so she probably was used to depending on her son’s help in certain situations.

* She probably didn’t know what Jesus was going to do, but she trusted that He would handle the problem.

APPLICATION: We trust *that* God will help, not knowing how the help will come.

***Jesus’ Answer***

Let’s look at verse 4 again…

**John 2:4 ( KJV )
4. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.**

Think about this.

* Mary was visited by angels and told directly by them that she was going to become pregnant and conceive the Son of God.
* At the time of this wedding feast Jesus was probably 30 years old.
* In all of those years don’t you think Mary told people about Him?
* Told them how special He was.
* Don’t you think in all those years people probably called her crazy to tell such tall tales?

Mary knew He could do it.

* She knew that when she looked in to the face of her Son she was looking into the face of God who had created her.
* She knew that all He had to do was to speak the word like in creation and the people would see the wonderful works of God.
* She probably also wanted to clear her name.
* She wanted people to see that all that she had said about her son was true.

\*\*\* J. Vernon McGee says of this…

Here she is asking Him to do something that will demonstrate who He is to

clear her name. He tells her that He is going to do just that—He will clear her name—but that the hour has not yet come. That hour did come! His resurrection proves who He is. And don't forget that the Resurrection proves the virgin birth of Christ. We tend to look at the virgin birth at Christmastime as an isolated fact. It is connected with His resurrection, friend, because He is who He claimed to be.

When He was hanging on the cross and the mother of Jesus was standing beneath that cross, you remember that He looked down and said to her, "Woman, behold thy son!" (Joh\_19:26). At that time His hour had come. In three days He would come back from the dead. When the disciples met in an upper room after His resurrection and ascension, Mary could look around, for she was there, and she could say to each of those disciples, "I told you that He was the Son of God!" (J.Vernon McGee)

***Whatever He Says Do It***

\*\*\* Notice next what Mary says…

Look with me to verse 5…

**John 2:5 ( KJV )****5. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*.**

What good advice!

Mary’s words show her respect for Jesus’ authority.

She said… whatever He says for you to do, DO IT!!!

The best thing we can do in life is to follow Mary’s command to the servants to “Do whatever he tells you” every moment of our lives.

* We need to get to the place in our lives where our first response will be to obey rather than to question.

Notice that the servants were not told beforehand what the outcome would be…

* APPLICATION: We too are rarely told the outcome… we too need to submit to Christ and be willing to DO WHATSOEVER HE TELLS US!!!

\*\*\* Are you ready to do what he says? Ask yourself:

Is there a cherished sin? Confess and forsake it. Is there a broken relationship? Seek to heal it. Is there a service opportunity Christ has placed before you? Step out and do it. Is there a need you feel convicted to fill? Be strong and meet it. Is there a higher level of commitment that Christ directs you to make? Welcome his call with all your heart. (From the Life Application Commentary)

***Six Water pots***

Mary had told the servants to do whatever Jesus said to do… Let’s see what happens next…

Look with me to verses 6-8…

**John 2:6-8 ( KJV )****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.****8. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*.**

The six stone water jars were normally used for the ceremonial washing of hands as part of the Jewish purification rites before and after meals. According to the Jews’ ceremonial law, people became symbolically unclean by touching objects of everyday life. Before eating, the Jews would pour water over their hands to cleanse themselves of any bad influences associated with what they had touched. When full, each jar would hold twenty to thirty gallons. (Life Application Commentary)

***Christ’s Command to the Servants***

Mary said… “Do what He says…” and in verses 7 and 8 we hear Him say…

***“Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim***.” Then He said… ***“Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.” And they took it.” (NKJV)***

To be the “master or governor of the feast” was a high honor.

* One of his primary duties was to regulate the distribution of wine.
* This person was elected to preside over the entertainment and to control the level of dilution for the wine;
* thus some observers might have held him partly responsible for the host’s running out of wine prematurely.

Do you know who the most worried individual was there at this banquet?

* You got it, “The master or governor of the feast.”
* People would be approaching him;
* the families of those being married would be approaching him.
* He would have been talked about for years to come.

***Doritos Commercial***

Do you remember that Doritos commercial, at least I think it was Doritos… anyhow, the room was alive with music, people smiling and conversing with one another until someone announced that the Doritos ran out. Then everyone left. I think the jingle was something like… “When the Doritos run out so does the party.” I can’t be sure but I think that’s how it went.

Well, when the wine ran out everyone was looking at the “master of the feast” for an answer. He obviously didn’t have one until the servants show up with more wine.

Listen to verse 9…

**John 2:9 ( KJV )****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,**

The servants did as they were told.

* They filled the jars to the brim, then drew out some of the liquid and took it to the master of the banquet.
* The water had been given a new identity as wine.
* APPLICATION: If you have come to Christ you’ve been given a new identity too.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 ( NKJV )
Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

Also look at Galatians 2:20…

**Galatians 2:20 ( NKJV )****I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

Just as the water had been given a complete new identity… If you have come to Jesus for salvation you too have a complete new identity.

* You are not just you any longer…
* Your life now consists of you and CHRIST…
* You are a new creation and as a part of your new creation Christ came to live in you.

***The Master of the Feast was Happy***

Look with me at verses 9-10…

**John 2:9-10 ( KJV )
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.**

The water turned into wine was of such quality that the master of the banquet made a point of mentioning this to the bridegroom, who also probably reacted in surprise.

* Neither of them knew where this wine came from,
* but Mary, the servants, and the disciples were aware of what had happened.

What Jesus did was He took the vessels of empty Jewish rituals… (the 6 water pots) and filled them with new wine… a symbol of what Jesus came to bring.

John 4:14-15 shows us what Jesus came to give us… Look there with me…

**John 4:14-15 ( NKJV )
14. but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”
15. The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”**

People look everywhere but to God for excitement and meaning.

* For some reason, they expect God to be dull and lifeless.
* Just as the wine Jesus made was the best, so life in him is better than life on our own.
* Why wait until everything else runs out before trying God?

Let’s read verse 11 and with it close our time together…

**John 2:11 ( KJV )****This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.**

**\*\*\* Prayer and Invitation**