

“The Good Wine is Being Served Last”

John 2:1-11

THE SITUATION AND SETTING

- **Jesus’ mother (Mary), Jesus, and his disciples were invited to a wedding. v.1-2**
-In Jesus’ cultural context a wedding was a big celebration involving many people and lasting about a week.
- **The wine ran out! v.3-4**
- **Jesus changed water into wine. v.5-10**
- **John’s summary for the reader. v.11**
-This was the first of Jesus’ signs.
-Jesus manifested (revealed) His glory.
-Jesus’ disciples believed in him.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THIS MIRACLE...

1. Consider Old Testament foreshadows and prophecies.

- God’s promises in the OT used abundance of wine to describe the coming of the Messiah.
-Amos 9:13: “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, when “...the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.”
-Joel 2:24: The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- God’s promises in the OT told of a great wedding celebration when the Messiah comes. Isaiah 25:6-9; 62:4-5

2. The theme of ‘something better is here’ in John’s Gospel.

→ The idea of ‘good wine’ replacing ‘poor wine’ is throughout John’s Gospel.

- Chapter 1: John the Baptist proclaims ‘a greater One’ has arrived.
-1:15, 30: “He who comes after me ranks before me”
-1:17: “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
-1:26: I baptize with water, but one is coming after me...
-1:33: I baptize with water, but He will baptize with the Holy Spirit...
- Chapter 2: “...water jars for the Jewish rites of purification...”
-Jesus cleans the Temple
- Chapter 3: Nicodemus (water to wine in the inward conversion of a man’s heart)

3. The theme of “the hour is coming” in John’s Gospel.

- The first half of John’s Gospel: ‘NOT YET... the hour is coming...’
- The second half of John’s Gospel: ‘NOW... the hour has come! (see Scripture references on back of outline)

4. Understanding the role of ‘signs’ in Scripture.

- Narrative summary in v.11: “This, the first of his *signs*...”
→ “The *sign*, a work of power in the physical realm, illustrates a principle that is operative in the *spiritual* realm.”
 - John 6: Multiplication of loaves, followed by Jesus: ‘I am the Bread of Life’
 - John 9: opening the eyes of the man born blind, Jesus: ‘I am the Light of the World’
 - John 11: raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus: ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life’
- What does the “sign” of Jesus turning water into wine point to?

APPLYING THIS STORY...

John 4:21: Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, **the hour is coming** when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

John 4:23: But **the hour is coming**, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

John 5:25: Truly, truly, I say to you, **an hour is coming**, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

John 5:28: Do not marvel at this, for **an hour is coming** when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice

John 7:6: Jesus said to them, “**My time has not yet come.**”

John 7:8: I am not going up to this feast, for **my time has not yet fully come.**

John 7:30: So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because **his hour had not yet come.**

John 8:20: These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because **his hour had not yet come.**

John 12:23: And Jesus answered them, “**The hour has come** for the Son of Man to be glorified.

John 12:27: Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this **hour**’? But for this purpose I have come to this **hour.**

John 13:1: Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that **his hour had come** to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

John 17:1: When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, **the hour has come**; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you...”

Thoughts from Fellow Pilgrims...

“The first miracle Jesus performed was at a wedding party. At that celebration, He turned water into wine (see John 2). Someone has suggested that modern-day Christianity is busy turning the wine back into water. That is true. We have taken what was a very real and exciting gift, making it into something so bland that most of the people who first received the gift wouldn’t be able to recognize it.”
-Steve Brown, *Living Free*

“If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”
-C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*

“The world is by no means averse to religion. In fact, it is devoted to it with a passion. It will buy any recipe for salvation as long as that formula leaves the responsibility for cooking up salvation firmly in human hands. The world is drowning in religion. It is lying full forty in cults of spiritual growth, physical health, psychological self-improvement, and ethical probity—not to mention religions of money, success, upward mobility, sin prevention, and cooking without animal fats. But it is scared out of wits by any mention of the grace that takes the world home *gratis*.”
-Robert Farrar Capon, *The Astonished Heart*