

THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

CHAPTER 2:1-11

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-363 FEBRUARY 13, 2000

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“When God is at Work...”

THE THEME OF BOOK:

Philippians 2:13

**“For it is God who works in you
both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Blessings, Miracles, Weddings

Making Plans & Preparations

is an Important Thing!

If It's For A Job Interview... We Look Our Best!
If It's For An Entrance Examine... We Study Our Best!

The More We Prepare, the better off we are in the End

We Must Look Ahead

Dionne Warwick and “The Psychic Friends Hotline”
They wanted to tell us our future, for a small fee. But themselves couldn't see that
were heading for bankruptcy....

Making Plans & Preparations

Is Very Important - But Probably The Most Planned and Rehearsed Event in the Mind
of Any Person is that of a Woman and Her Wedding

Ever Since She Was a Little Girl

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.

Proverbs 16:9

A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

In Our Text This Morning

There's A Wedding

And In That Culture of That Time;

The Bride & Groom Looked to Things and Events as Being Indicators of God's Presence in
the Blessing of the Marriage

For the Good or For The Bad

*People Then Look At The Situations Around Them and Then Would
Draw a Conclusion!*

When God's at Work...

There Are Always Certain Things That Can Be Expected Without Fail

“That is Revelations of Himself”

First

There is the surface of the matter, what is happening and what is being observed
(there was a wedding)

Second

there is the meaning of the situation
(The Wedding had a Glitch)

Finally,

there comes the deeper, almost hidden meaning to the situation
(the application of His eternal Truth)

Jesus Said

John 5:39

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

When God's at Work...

1.) **Jesus' Presence Will Be There**

vv. 1-4

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

It's Been Said In The East That
"Hospitality is a Delightful Duty"
Russian & German Hospitality – The Best

But If in the Middle east - that Hospitality Failed. It Became a Curse and a Stigma Upon The Host and Hostess

When God's at Work...

Jesus' Presence Will Be There

a.) ***His Presence Will Always Be Timely***

vv.1-2

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

The Timeliness – The "When" of It
Jesus Attended a Wedding!

A very joyous occasion

Jesus Was at/among The Festivities

Marriage and the Wedding is God's Idea

Charles Spurgeon Wrote
(lectures to my students)

"A man void of congeniality is better fit to be an undertaker and should bury the dead, because he will have no success among those who are alive"

"If Heaven is within the heart and soul of a man then it will be seen on His face"

Jesus Was Alive and Celebrated Life His Critics Will Later Attack About This

Matthew 11:19

"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a gluttonous man and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children."

His Timeliness of it All

Weddings Were Not Easily Attended

Seven Days of Celebration Were Required - *Have Fun and Now!*

You Didn't Work, You Didn't Go Home, You Didn't Leave

b.) ***His Presence Can Be Depended Upon*** vv.3-4

3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

The Culture of that Day

During The Marriage celebration feasts that lasted for seven days
The Bridegroom and His Father Were Responsible for the Celebration

The **Preparation** / The **Guest List** / The **Location** / The **Foods**

To Run Out of Inventory

Was considered to be a sign of being ill Prepared, Careless, And not Serious About the Meaning of the Event Attended.

That's Why

John 14:2-3

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

During The 7 Year Tribulation Period The Camera Swings Heavenward.....

Revelation 19:6-9

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

Jesus - He Waits With Divine Anticipation

Luke 22:18

"For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

When God's at Work...

2.) **Jesus Can Be Turned To**

vv. 5-8

5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." 6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

a.) ***He Possesses All Authority***

v. 5

5 His mother said to the servants,
"Whatever He says to you, do it."

There was Nothing That Mary Could Do

She Appears Here - In Some Way,
To be Assisting The Family in the Celebrations

But Her Personal Resources Ran Out SO SHE TURNED TO JESUS

(that is always the smart thing to do in every situation)
A Real Christian Will Always and Instinctively
Turn To Jesus in Times of Difficulty

1 Peter 5:7

casting (keep on casting) all your care upon Him, for He **cares** (keeps on caring) for you.

Matthew 11:29-30

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

John 6

"Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Jesus Can Be Turned To

b.) ***He Supplies All That is Needed***

vv.6-7

6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

Jesus + Five Disciples = Six

Now there were set there **six** waterpots of **stone**

To The Jewish Mind

The Number Seven was The Number That Suggested Completeness
The Number Six was That of Something Unfinished

Verse 6-7

according to the manner of purification

In Their Law of Washings

- containing **twenty or thirty** gallons
- they **filled** them up to **the brim**

180 Gallons of Wine at a 1/3 ratio
(6,000 guests according to history)

When God is at Work, He Works in Abundance

Psalm 23:5

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

c.) ***He Desires To Bless His Creation***

v.8

8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to **the master of the feast.**" And they took it.

the master

grk 755 architrik linos

the director of the plans / the entertainment / the head waiter

The Creator Jesus Christ at Work

“Jesus is Calling Upon The Architect
(The Master of the Festivities)
To Approve What Was Being Served Up”

Jesus Was a **Guest**
Now He Becomes The **Head Waiter**

Jesus is Blessing With no Obligation to do so When God's at Work...

3.) **Jesus Does What's Best**

vv. 9-10

9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. But you have kept the good wine until now!"

a.) ***He Works Naturally, Supernaturally***

v.9

9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (~~but the servants who had drawn the water knew~~), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

I Would Have Loved to Have Seen The M.C.'s Face
I Would Have Loved to Have Seen The Bridegrooms Face

No Hype Here

Exodus 3:11-15

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." 13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'

When God's at Work...

Jesus Does What's Best

b.) ***He Involves His Friends In His Work*** v.9

(but the servants who had drawn the water knew)

Hello

When God is at Work in Our Lives,
The Ones who are Used to Serve Were the First Ones to See The Blessing

John 15:14-17

"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 "No longer do I call you servants, **for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 "These things I command you, that you love one another.

He Involves Us in His Work

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

c.) ***He Confirms His Will By Word & Deed*** v.10

10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. But You have kept the good wine until now!"

The Custom was to Make a Great Impression,
But to Sustain that impression was a much more difficult job. To do the best for the people when less was expected overwhelmed the Head-waiter

Jesus, By Stealth

Completely Turns The Tragedy Around!

The Bridegroom, His Wife and His Parents Must Have Been In Awe

“You and Your Father are Really Something”

- *the M.C.*

For The Follower of Jesus Christ

The Best is Yet to Come

As Christians

“The Life That We Are Now Living,
is At All Time Low”

Because we’re growing up in Him
daily!!!

- We’re under constant construction
- We’re being changed into the glory of Christ day by day
 - We’re growing in the knowledge of God
 - Jesus is taking more and more control of our lives
- And At The End Of Our Lives On Earth – We Graduate

**The Lord Saves The Best For Last
& Forever – Heaven!**

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

When God's at Work...

4.) **Jesus Will Always Be Exalted**

v. 11

11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

a.) ***His Sign's Will Always Point Us Upward***

v.11

11 This **beginning of signs** Jesus did in Cana of Galilee,

This **beginning of signs**

What Jesus Did, He Continues to Do

John Call's The 'Miracles of Jesus' "Signs" "In Cana of Galilee"

b.) ***His Signs Will Always Honor Jesus***

v.11

and (he) **manifested** His **glory**; and His disciples **believed** in Him.

Jesus Will Be Honored
Not the Signs, The Wonders or the Person

Jesus Only Shall Be Worshipped

The Teaching of the Word Builds Faith
Signs and Wonders were never intended to build faith

Miracles, signs & wonders Should Follow the
Believer's Walk of Faith, not the reverse...

c.) <i>His Signs Will Always Lead to Decisions</i> v.11

and His disciples **believed** in Him.

Jesus Changes Lives, Like Changing Water into Wine

What's needed in this life to live, Jesus supplies us -
even if it is the ultimate healing in the taking us
home to heaven...

Jesus is Desiring to be Involved in Every Aspect of Your Life

Jesus Takes the Commonality of Life (The Water) and Creates a New
Life into A colorful, tasteful and Influencing Presence

Jesus is still doing this Today. We, like those waterpots, used, scratched, and wore but under God's power, we become useful and able to dispense new life from common pots

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Judges 7:16-20

16 Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. 17 And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: 18 "When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!" 19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. 20 Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers-- they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing-- and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

the water is His word, the wine is the result of having taken the cup and tasting it.

Taste and See

Ephesians 5:18

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

he wants to fill us to the brim so that we can be poured out to the world around us

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.