

Who is this Man Jesus?


Part 3

The Wedding Feast

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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A publication of  , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- Pastor Doug showed that the six stone waterpots represented Old Testament purification rituals which could never resolve the guilt and shame of our sin, as Jesus does. How did **you** try to resolve the guilt and shame of **your** sin before you came to Jesus for true cleansing? How well did it work?
- Pastor Doug pointed out the bluntness of Jesus' response to his mother ("woman", John 2:4). In many ways it was similar to when she failed to understand him as an adolescent (Luke 2:48-50). Knowing that Jesus was **totally sinless** (John 8:46), and **full of grace and truth** (John 1:14), how do these interchanges expand your conception of righteous, loving, patient communication?
- Pastor Doug observed that the wine represented both the cup of **suffering** that lay ahead for Jesus and the cup of **joy** we'll experience in eternity. How do you see both of those concepts in Hebrews 12:2?

Now list **all** the commands found in Hebrews 12:1 and 3 (did you find all three—or maybe even four?). How do you see Jesus fulfilling these commands during this event at the wedding at Cana?

How could "fixing your eyes on Jesus" help you in your current challenges? Be specific.

Creating "God Space": "God Space" is where cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people can safely raise their questions, reservations, & doubts because we have listened well and demonstrated love in practical, authentic ways.

- Who do you know who needs to experience the "good wine" of Jesus?
- Brainstorm some "wondering" questions you could ask these friends online this week.
- Reach out to them about what you're learning about the source of **true** joy.

Don't settle for less than God's "wine"!

For customized discipleship, write to:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

- Know that any source of "wine" (joy) other than Jesus Christ **will** run out.
- Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.
- Let your knowledge of your future help you deal with your present troubles.
- Don't put the weight of your soul's longings and hopes of marriage on anyone but Jesus.
- Don't settle for anything but a rich prayer life.

Sermon Summary

Key Text: John 2:1-11

We are in the middle of a series of messages that looks at some of Jesus' words and works as recorded for us in John's gospel. Today we will be looking at one of his miracles, which the book of John refers to as "signs." They pointed to who Jesus was and to the purpose of his coming. To discover how Jesus' first sign, turning water into wine, points to who Jesus is and to his purpose requires asking more questions.

What do the waterpots do? To run out of wine at a wedding feast would be considered a grievous lapse in judgment and would have brought shame on the couple and the family in the Jewish honor-and-shame culture. The waterpots were storage for water used for ceremonial washing, which Jews used during their multi-layered cleansing process before worship. Jesus ultimately rescues this couple and their family from social guilt and shame, but on a higher level, this miracle points to the fact that his purpose in coming to earth is to permanently cleanse all of us from our guilt and shame resulting from sin.

What does the brusque exchange with his mother point to? God constantly calls himself a bridegroom throughout the Old Testament, because he does not just want a royal relationship with his people as a king does with his citizens, but a love relationship with his people like that of a bridegroom with a bride. Jesus refers to himself as the "bridegroom" in Matthew 9, and elsewhere in Scripture draws many parallels between weddings and his union with his people. Jesus is pondering the agony of his prophesied death and the wedding feast with his bride, the church. When his mother asks him to bring joy to this wedding, he cannot help but think about his own wedding, when he will bring joy to all who come to him in faith.

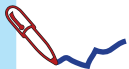
What does the wine point to? Jesus lifted up a cup of blood (signifying God's judgment) at the Last Supper, and then begged that wine cup of wrath be passed from him as he prayed in Gethsemane. At the wedding feast, the wine was a symbol of joy and celebration—Jesus' graciousness in turning the water into wine pointed forward to the wedding feast of the Lamb when Jesus brings lasting joy to those he loves and who have trusted him as their bridegroom. As the wine symbolizes his shed blood which cleanses us from all of our sin and imperfections, it also prepares us for the joy of our heavenly wedding day, when we will be united with Jesus.

What does this mean for us? Any wine except this wine of Jesus Christ will run out. Do whatever Jesus tells you to do. Learn how to draw on your knowledge of what's coming in the future to help you deal with the troubles of the present. Don't let all this talk about marriage throw you. Don't settle for anything but a rich prayer life.

Talking To God About This Week's Message

"Heavenly Father, please help me today to be a 'doer' of the Word, and not just a 'hearer'. Amen."

Take One Step: What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, *"What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?"*, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.
We can use it to explore Jesus, the source of true joy...

Monday— Psalm 98:1-3

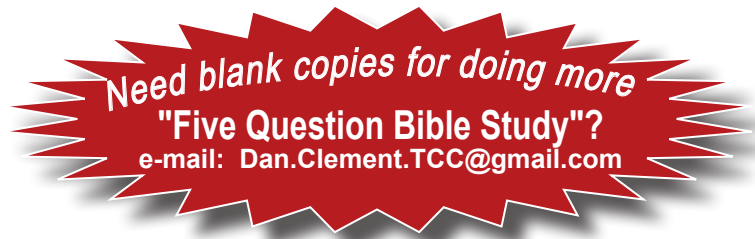
Tuesday— Psalm 98:4-6

Wednesday— Psalm 98:7-9

Thursday— Psalm 126:1-3

Friday— Psalm 126:4-6

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study John 4:46–54.



Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?