

IS JESUS IN THE WEDDING?

John 2:7 *Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.*

Earlier in the chapter we read that the Lord and his disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana near Nazareth. “And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage” (John 2:2). This was the best thing the bride and bridegroom did – they invited God to their wedding. How many weddings is Jesus invited to today? Sooner or later, our marriages will run out of something – there will be a big need: money, health, children, etc. When this happens, it is wonderful to know that Jesus is in the marriage. It did not take long before the couple experienced their first problem: even before they were pronounced man and wife, they experienced their first problem. “And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine” (John 2:3). Now, let it be clear that this could not have been fermented wine. The 6 waterpots which were filled were equivalent to approximately 680 liters (ca. 120 gallons) of wine. Clearly, this would have been enough to intoxicate everyone at that wedding. The Lord himself warned us about the dangers of drunkenness. How then would he convert water into fermented wine?

Luke 21:34 *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

In the wedding, the host went to Mary for help with the problem. Sadly, the same people who invited the Lord and his disciples to the wedding, made the mistake of going to Mary rather than the Lord when their first problem arose. Are treating the Lord Jesus in the same manner? Have we invited the Lord into our lives only to sideline him in a corner somewhere and seek help with the wrong people? Reflect upon your life for a moment. Are there other individuals you depend upon to solve your problems? We sadly often treat the Lord as an honored guest who should not be troubled with our problems. Jesus did not come into our lives to sit passively and observe our struggles. Only he can make the difference in our marriages, our families, our jobs, and every other challenge. There was a King in Israel called Asa. In 2Chronicles 15 we read that he cleansed Israel of idols and served the Lord for which he was blessed. In the next chapter, however, we read that he made a pact with the King of Syria and sought physicians for his diseased feet rather than seek the Lord.

2Chron 16:12 *And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.*

Thank God Mary pointed the wedding host in the direction of Jesus. As parents we do our best to help our children. However, we must tell them that there will come a time when only Jesus can solve their problems. We cannot turn water into wine. One of the most humbling experiences of a son is the day he realizes that his father is not superman who can solve all problems. We need to charge our children to love and follow the Lord, as did David. “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever” (I Chron 28:9). Mary did the right thing – she knew that what was required was beyond her ability.

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

There is a deep mystery in this verse. Mary becomes a symbol of the Church asking for the blood of Jesus to wash away the sins of the people of God. While the wedding was one of the happiest occasions, it is always tinged with the sorrow of human sin and the need for redemption. There would come a time when the Lord would give his blood (wine) to wash away our sins, but it was not yet the time. “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). In other words, while the Lord Jesus was there in the wedding to take care of every little problem, we should never lose sight of the greatest need of individuals – he blood of Jesus to wash away our sins. What is the use of living a problem free life and ending up separated from God forever? Thank God for his blood that washes whiter than snow.

Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

Finally, Jesus takes action. Blessed day when the Lord takes charge. “His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim” (John 2: 5-7). It is very important to just obey Jesus. What he commands us to do may not make sense at all – but just do it. Jesus is God hence he utters the most shocking commands. He told a man to stretch out his crippled hand, a dead man to rise up, his disciples to feed 5000 people with two fish and five loaves, etc. Just obey the commands of Jesus! Our job is actually the easiest part: just repent and be baptized in Jesus name. After that, the Lord will work the miracle of the new life. Just fill the 6 waterpots and Jesus will issue the command for a miracle to transpire.

John 2:8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

The servants at the wedding did as they were told. We are the servants of Jesus. At the command of Jesus to “draw out now”, the water was turned into wine. God give us grace to obey his commands! The waterpots can be likened to human bodies which are ready for baptism in Jesus name. The body is immersed in water by faith. Then Jesus issues the command “draw out now” and a new life is born.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

It is clear that there is a deep, underlying spiritual meaning to the events that took place in the wedding at Cana. Remember this was the first of the Lord’s miracles. The wedding symbolizes a new beginning, the new journey of a Christian. Spiritually, a wedding points to the union between the Church and the Lord Jesus Christ. “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:30-32). The wine represents the blood of Jesus and even the coming of the Holy Spirit. The water points to baptism in Jesus name. Yes, everything we need for salvation is present where Jesus is present.