

What Do You Want?"
John 1:35-2:11
April 23, 2023

Read Scripture. **Thank you, Lord, for your word. Let it come alive in us!**

At this point in the passage, God had sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell others about Jesus so that everyone might be saved. He was called to simply share his testimony – what he had experienced and what he **knew to be true about the Messiah** so that others might believe also. And that's what he did. He answered the call, serving Jesus on behalf of others. **He dedicated his life to making Jesus known! Everything he did was to fulfill this purpose...KNOWING JESUS AND MAKING HIM KNOWN.**

So here he is in John 1:35, standing around with two of his disciples and Jesus walks by. What does John do? He takes the opportunity to make Jesus known to them. He says, "Look! There's the Lamb of God!" The One I've been telling you about. He had already stirred up their curiosity by telling them about Jesus, so they immediately followed Him.

When Jesus saw them following, He asks them this question: What do you want? Other versions say, "What are you looking for/hoping to find?" "Where are you staying?" they asked. Other versions say, "Where do you live? Where do you abide? Where do you make your home?" **Jesus invited them to "Come and see."**

They had no idea the magnitude of what was about to happen, but they were excited to find out. So excited that Andrew, one of the disciples, (the other is thought to be the author, John.) **went to find** his brother Simon Peter to **tell him** that he found Jesus. And Andrew **brought** Simon to Him (THE Simon Peter that would have such an influence forever). Then Jesus found Philip in Galilee and said to him, "Come follow me." Philip was so excited about seeing Jesus that he **went to look for** Nathaniel to **tell him**. Nathaniel had some doubts, so Philip **invited him to come and see** for himself. Nathaniel took Philip's offer and found out for himself through a personal encounter with Jesus and followed him.

We should be doing these same things. We should be so excited about knowing Jesus and our personal experiences with the Living God that we are looking for opportunities to tell others. Go find them, search them out, tell them about who Jesus is and all that He has done for you. Bring them on the journey with you. Invite them to come to church and see for themselves. Position them in the path of the Savior so they, too, can invite Him into their lives.

John 2:1- The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his **disciples** were also **invited** to the celebration. These men who were followers of Jesus because of their curiosity to learn about Him and who He really is, are now being called disciples. A disciple is someone who has a desire to learn from someone and follow what they are taught. These disciples were about to see firsthand what can happen when Jesus is **INVITED** to be a part of our lives. They had a front row seat to something that would change their lives.

At this wedding celebration, the unthinkable happened...they ran out of wine. This was a big social faux pas on the part of the groom's family. It was a disgrace. It was not a good impression of them. And they could certainly be remembered by this incident. It could tarnish their reputation and this beautiful wedding.

But Mary knew something about her son. She had no doubt about the power and anointing her son carried, and she began to draw it out of Him. She calls on Jesus to help, to rescue this poor Galilean family from disgrace.

Jesus' first response was "This isn't my problem. My time has not yet come." Jesus knew that if He did this, it would dramatically change everything for Him. His power and glory would be revealed. He would be known for performing a miracle. He only did what the Father told Him to do. Everything He did had a purpose.

Mary didn't argue with Him. But she didn't back down from what she knew about her son either. She simply looked over at the servants and told them to do whatever Jesus tells them to do. Jesus must have heard the voice of His Father in his mother's encouragement because He responded. He performed His first public miracle at a wedding – the joining of hearts. This miracle had a serious purpose of revealing Him as the Son of God.

Jesus wasn't the only one who responded to Mary's words. Mary was just a guest at the wedding. She wasn't the wedding coordinator, yet she instructed the servants. And they responded. They didn't have to listen to her. Why did they?

I don't see anything in Scripture that leads me to believe that Mary was a demanding taskmaster, always barking orders at people. In fact, we see the opposite – the young woman who humbly responded to the angel, Gabriel, saying "**I am the Lord's servant. Let it be to me as you have said.**" And she lived her life according to those words. So why did they respond to her instructions? Could it be that God spoke to them through Mary's **servant heart** and she spoke with quiet, gentle confidence in what God was able to do?

Her instructions and their response to serve positioned them for a life-changing experience. Jesus told them to fill the jars with water and they followed His instructions. No questions asked. Filling those water pots wasn't easy. They were huge and heavy. In fact, those 6 pots would have held enough water for 2400 people. This was no small task!

They were probably so glad to be done when Jesus asked them to do something else – dip some out and take it to the Master of Ceremonies. They could probably barely lift their arms.

Exhausted and sweaty, they followed His instructions again. They didn't say "We need a break. We'll do it later. Get someone else." They simply served Jesus by served others. And because of their availability and willingness to serve others even when they were tired and maybe it really wasn't convenient for them at that moment, they got to participate in the first public miracle Jesus performed! What a privilege!

I'm sure that when they dipped some out, they noticed it wasn't water anymore. They were probably in awe, maybe even speechless. But ...

Vs 9 – I looked up the word "knew" in the Strong's Concordance. It's the word eido (I do). It means to perceive, discern, discover, get knowledge of, understand. The servants received a life-changing gift through their act of service. **Jesus was made known** to them. **They discerned in their spirits and understood who Jesus was.** In that moment of serving, **their eyes were opened. They saw the power and glory of God manifested. They KNEW the one who performed the miracle.** The lowly servants – the lowest people at the celebration got to experience **their own personal miracle of the revelation of who Jesus is.** And they got to be the ones Jesus used to work His first public miracle.

The servants weren't the only ones who were changed by this moment.

Vs 11- "His disciples believed in Him." It's no coincidence that the first public miracle took place at a wedding ceremony, the joining of hearts. Everything Jesus did had a purpose. The servants and the disciples had a heart joining moment with Jesus. They went from curious followers, wondering what they would find, to BELIEVERS!

The guests all benefited from the miracle, but it was in the midst of those who were serving that it actually happened. Ordinary people who were available and willing to serve.

But that's what God says in His word... You want to be great and have a great impact in the kingdom of God? Then put yourself last and serve others. True greatness in God's kingdom comes through service motivated by a deep love for God.

It all starts, though, with a desire to KNOW HIM.

There are some of you today just like those we started off talking about. You're following from a distance. You've **heard about Jesus**. You've been coming to church and listening to the preacher, but you have questions. You are curious about Jesus. You are looking for ways to **know** if He is really the Son of God. He likes that! In fact, He has a question for you. "What do you want? What are you hoping to find?" If your answer is like those followers we talked about, "Where do you make your home?", get ready! He wants to show you! He's saying to you, "Come see for yourself. Come follow me." **For those who have ears to hear, let them hear.**

Can I just say something to you? Being here right now, you are in a great place to learn and grow. There is an open heaven and God is moving at DCC. The Word that you will hear spoken from this pulpit is life changing. Keep coming. You are in a great place! Jesus is waiting to be invited into every area of our life. If we invite Him, He will come! When He comes, everything changes! The fullness of who He is comes! When Jesus enters a life or situation, He transforms it.

You will get to **KNOW** Him as you spend time with Him. Get into His word. Spend time in worship. Come to church, prayer, Bible studies. Learn from others who have been walking with the Lord for a while. Become a disciple, a learner. You will grow as you go.

Inviting Him in and Knowing Him is where it starts, but it doesn't stop there! We are called to **make Him known** by being a servant. Don't come to church just to receive from others who are serving. Even Jesus didn't come to earth to be served. He came to serve others.

God is depending on those who know Him to make Him known. It's the great COMMISSION. We are saved by faith in God alone, but our salvation shows itself through God's call to be an active participant in the church. From followers, to disciples, to believers, to servants He is looking for servants today who are willing to hear His words and follow Him. He's looking for those who are willing to obey, giving up our own will to see His will accomplished. No hesitation, no ulterior motives, just simply out of relationship with Him and a desire to serve Him. (Phil 2: 17 says our faithful service is an offering to God)

We would do good to take Mary's advice today – "Do whatever He tells you to do." Jesus works among the humble servants. The "unsung heroes". Will it always produce a public miracle? Maybe not. But it **WILL** put us in a position that allows us to partner with Him in the greatest miracles – seeing the lost saved by hearing the Gospel, seeing lives transformed and set free from bondage, seeing others step into the call of God on their life to make Him known and make an impact on generations to come. **Finding Jesus is the greatest miracle of all!** It's Him that we all need! And yes... we may even get to see water turned to wine.

So, will you respond to His voice today? If you are just beginning, make the decision today to follow Jesus with the purpose of knowing Him. Come, we want to pray with you. Let us help you get connected so you can learn and grow.

If you've been here for a while as a part of Desert Christian Center, and you know that this is your church home, plant yourself and grow roots. Take the next step and begin serving in His house. Step into the call to make Him known. Make a great impact in the Kingdom of God by giving your life away in service. There are connect cards in the chair back in front of you. Fill one out and make a commitment.

Together we make a great team. Together we are powerful. Together we can accomplish much to **MAKE HIM KNOWN.**