

Sent #2 – A Glimpse Of Glory

John 2:1-11

Introduction:

Before the foundation of the world, God knew the plight of a lost world, and God had a plan, the only plan, to rescue and redeem it. He so loved the world that He sent His only Son to a condemned world to save it!

Hours before He was betrayed and crucified, Jesus prayed...

“As thou hast sent me into the world...” (John 17:18)

After He prayed, He did the unthinkable. Certainly not a hero's plot... Jesus...

- Surrendered completely to His Father's will and plan.
- Drank the cup and became sin for us.
- Suffered the wrath of God and died for you, and me – for the world!

Then, He, did the impossible.

- He rose from the dead!
- Resurrection Sunday evening Jesus met with His disciples.
 - Knowing their fear, He spoke - *“Peace be unto you...”*
 - He in the same breath reminded them again, *“as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”*

“As My Father Sent Me...”

That is our series: *“Sent”*

Today, in John 2,

- Jesus had been introduced by John the Baptist and baptized...
- We find a few of the disciples whose names we know well.
- His ministry was just beginning. There was a buzz. A lot of questions.
 - *Who was this Jesus?*
 - *What He could do?*
 - *Why had He come?*

Vs. 11 reveals - *“This beginning of miracles...”*

Our text records His first *“sign”*- A miracle with a message. What do we learn?

***Quick question:**

If we had written the script, what would we have chosen for Him to do first?

- *Feed the world?*
- *Heal someone miraculously?*
- *Just start off with the biggie- raise the dead?*

What stage did the Father choose as the introduction to Jesus' ministry?

A wedding!

I. The Marriage Feast.

A Wedding. (**Explain briefly weddings in their culture.)

- The **pinnacle event** in a young couple's life.
- Significant **preparation**.
- Days of **celebration**.
- The **entire family** was vested in its success
- The **entire community** was drawn into it
- **Music, laughter and expectation filled the air!**

This was **supposed to be one of the greatest moments of their lives, and then, something went horribly wrong!**

II. The Mess.

A. The report: vs. 3

As Jesus and His disciples arrived, Mary told them...

There was no more wine. The celebration stopped!

Disaster struck despite their preparations and best intentions.

- Their **plans fell apart**.
- Their **best efforts and intentions were not enough**.
- **Public disgrace and humiliation were inevitable.**
- **Their future would be determined by this disaster**

It was awkward. Panic and desperation hung in their air!

B. Responses:

We might be tempted to respond – “*What’s the big deal?*”,

- If we did, we would really just demonstrate our lacking of understanding. It was a big deal!
- ****When we hear of others’ problems**, and at times may be tempted to respond, “*What’s the big deal?*”,
Remember: **if it is a big deal to them, it is a big deal to God!**

C. Reflection:

With a hurting world waiting, **why does the public ministry of Jesus begin here?** Not at a graveside. Not beside a leper. Not feeding thousands. At a wedding where the wine ran out.

- *Why begin here?*
- *Why this with all of the important stuff!*

This crisis was real, but even more, it was reflective of something much larger.

- **Before crisis.** Before the fall in Eden. Before death, destruction and perpetual, inevitable disappointment... God’s plan played out in Paradise!

Creation didn't begin with hospitals, funerals, hunger, loneliness and tears.
It began with life, relationship, abundance, communion and joy.

A Wedding?

- *Really? Was a wedding really that important?*
- *Rescue from humiliation – that important?*
- *A healthy happy future – that important?*
- *Joy - That important?*

Really? Jesus would later reveal

“I am come that they might have **life**, and that they might have it **more abundantly.**” John 10:10

*Really? God gave us the answer to our incredulous question in Hebrews:
“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame**”
(Hebrews 12:2)*

Jesus came not merely to rescue us from what sin had done, but to restore us to what God had always intended.

III. The Real Master Of The Feast” – “Jesus was called”

A. The Interesting Discussion

Jesus and Mary

B. Jesus’ Direction

2:7 – “Jesus said...”

John’s Gospel began,
John 1

1. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
3. **All things were made by him...**
4. *In him **was life**; and the **life was the light of men**.*

The reference was to Creation. Hebrews adds...

*“Through faith we understand that the **worlds were framed by the word of God...**” (11:3)*

In Genesis 1: **Over and over**, we read, “**And God said...**”
Bam! It happened!

Now, **the Creator has begun His earthly ministry, and He’s doing it again! Right there at a marriage feast in Cana.**

In a moment of catastrophe and desperation:
“Jesus said...”

Waterpots

6 Empty Ceremonial Pots – *used under the law for purifying*

- Around 30 Gallons! – For Purifying – Old Testament Practice
- Empty
- At best, even when filled – *only water*

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” John 1:17

Now: Wine. Abundance. Celebration. Joy!

C. Their Decision: vs. 5-8

They did what He said.

- It didn’t have to make sense!
- They didn’t have to understand. Didn’t even ask!
- They didn’t have to like it.

So, what happens when someone – then or now - chooses to put their faith in and follow His Words?

It set the stage for a glimpse of glory! For something only God could do!

IV. The Miracle. Vs. 9-10

A. The Magnitude of the Miracle. (Quickly dramatize)

- The ruler of the feast
- The astonishment
- The best wine – last!

B. The Marriage Participants

What happened to the wedding party? The couple? The family?

We don’t know.

What we **do know is their lives and futures were changed that day – because of Jesus.**

C. The Manifestation! Vs. 11

1. Manifested His glory!

- *Who He was.*
- *What He could do.*
- *Why He came!*

To start the music... restore the laughter and life... Reflect what will be forever when He completes His Mission!

2. A Personal Moment for His Disciples: “*believed on him*”.

Believed what? Salvation?

- *They hadn’t seen...*

- Yet - they got a glimpse of Who He was! *They had seen enough glory to trust Him for what they hadn’t seen!*

Step by step, they would follow, and find over and over...

- For everything broken – Jesus!
- For everything bigger than we are – Jesus!
- For everything great and glorious- Jesus!

“And His disciples believed on Him.”

Do you?

Will you?