

SERIES: OFF GRID
SERMON: THE BEST FOR LAST
10-7-23

OPENER:

John 2:1-10 (NIV) On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

(Tell about scripture)

The first few chapters of the book of John record the busy early days of Lord's ministry. He was baptized by John the Baptist, tempted in the wilderness, and called his first disciples. Suddenly, He has to participate in an event that seems almost commonplace compared to the Father and the Spirit being present at His baptism, and overcoming Satan in the desert. He is a guest at a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

The bride and groom obviously were friends or relatives of Mary, the mother of Jesus. At this wedding, the family and the servants began to panic because they ran out of wine. Culturally, running out of wine would make the family appear inhospitable, cheap, unwilling to spend money to take care of their guests. It would bring shame upon them in the community.

1. THE LORD HAS NEW WINE FOR US

Vs. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

Maybe you are here this morning and you feel empty. You feel like you have exhausted your supply of strength, your passion, your zeal. You feel weary. You

may feel disillusioned and without hope. Maybe you have done all you know to do. You've exhausted your resources.

IF YOU ARE HERE TODAY AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY DRY AND EMPTY, I WANT TO SAY TO YOU THAT THE LORD HAS A REFRESHING INFILLING OF HIS SPIRIT FOR YOU!

Psalm 63:1 (NLT) O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.

> Maybe you are here and you have depended on other means to meet your needs. Yet when we look to them, instead of Jesus, they are never enough.
> It's easy to look to people: family and friends, a relationship, teachers and mentors, your husband or kids.....and long for their approval and the affirmation that comes with it.
> Or maybe you have looked to possessions and positions and put your hope in recognition. And thought, "if only I had or could ... then I'd be fulfilled." But no matter how much we do or get, it's never enough to fill us up. And it's not supposed to be.

**WHY? BECAUSE THE EMPTY PLACES IN OUR HEARTS WERE CREATED TO BE FILLED BY GOD ALONE.
THE DEEPEST THIRST OF OUR SOULS CAN ONLY BE QUENCHED BY HIM.**

THE LORD HAS NEW WINE FOR US!

2. THE LORD MAKES US WORTHY VESSELS

VS. 6-7 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

CULTURAL NOTE:

It was customary in Jewish tradition for a person to wash their hands before eating. So Jews would ceremonially wash their hands before and after most activities. The six large water pots that sat at the door of the wedding at Cana were there for the wedding guests to wash their hands "after the manner of the purifying of the Jews" so they would be both physically and ritually clean. Needless to say, although the pots held a lot of water after dozens of ceremonial hand washings, those weren't vessels from which you would want to take a long drink, let alone pour the party wine.

Yet Jesus chose those murky, filthy, bacteria-laced water pots for this miracle, and asked the servants to fill them to the brim. Using His divine power, He turned water from those unclean vessels into the finest, best wine of the night.

**JESUS GAVE A PROFOUND MESSAGE THAT HE HAS THE POWER TO
TRANSFORM NOT JUST THE STATE OF LIQUIDS,
BUT THE STATE OF LIVES.**

**THE LORD WAS SAYING, "I CAN TAKE DIRTY THINGS AND MAKE THEM CLEAN.
I CAN TAKE COMMON THINGS AND MAKE THEM EXTRAORDINARY!"**

**I TAKE THINGS IN MY HANDS AND CHANGE THEM!
AND IF YOU COME TO ME I WILL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!
THAT IS WHY I AM HERE.
THAT IS WHAT I HAVE THE
POWER TO DO!**

2 Corinthians 5:17. This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

**IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW DIRTY YOU FEEL OR HOW POLLUTED YOUR LIFE
HAS BECOME.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.**

**THE LORD'S LOVE FOR YOU IS STRONGER THAN ANY SIN YOU MAY HAVE
COMMITTED.**

**THE LORD CAN CLEANSE YOU AND MAKE YOU NEW.
AND FILL YOU WITH HIS PRESENCE.**

**JUST ASK HIM TO CLEANSE YOU - TO POUR HIS LIVING WATER TO WASH YOU
AND PURIFY YOU
SO YOU CAN BE A VESSEL FOR HIS GLORY.**

3. THE LORD HAS SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST

Vs. 10 After tasting the wine, the Master of the Feast said, Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

I truly believe that God is pouring out a new outpouring of His Spirit and His power in this last hour before His coming. He has saved the best for last!

That as the pots were gathered, the Lord is gathering His church, from every affiliation and denomination and pouring out His Spirit in a new way in these last days!

That as we unite in love and obedience to the Lord with the one desire to seek His face and bring glory to His name. He is filling us with New Wine!

THE LORD IS SERVING A SWEETER MORE REFRESHING DRINK OF HIS SPIRIT.

Isaiah 44:3. For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."