

"GREATEST OF ALL" / MIRACLES 2

Do you have trouble enjoying God? *That might be a question that you have never been asked or it might be a question that causes you to think – what a dumb question. Why would you ask that? Let me explain ...*

What is your favorite meal above all other meals? Why? You like the taste, the experience, the memory, the comfort – may be a lot of reasons but the point is - you enjoy this meal above all other meals. It is the greatest of all meals so you have no trouble saying – I enjoy this meal. Matter of fact thinking about it now makes you want to leave & go enjoy it.

Who is your favorite person to be with above all other people? Why? All sorts of reasons. If I asked – Do you have trouble enjoying _____? You would say: no!

We have no problem saying we enjoy a certain meal – bc to us it is the greatest meal over all other meals.

We have no problem saying we enjoy a certain person – bc to us, they are the greatest person in our life.

Why then can it be such a tough question for us to answer: "Do you have trouble enjoying God?"

Maybe we struggle enjoying God because we don't think of God as a person to enjoy but rather, we think of Him as something to obey or a judge to avoid. (Mmmm) paraphrase of Trillia Newbell in [Enjoy](#)

I believe God wants to challenge that today - and honestly every day. But I think today – through an encounter with Jesus from His word – God wants you to see you can enjoy Him. It is not only allowed – it is why you were created and it is one of the main reasons Jesus came to this earth doing miracles. It all begins just as it does with food or a person – when you see that food or person as the "greatest of all" – you enjoy the food or the person. Likewise ...

We enjoy God – when we begin to see Jesus as the "Greatest of All."

We are going to try and answer two simple questions as we walk through this passage together – 1st

1. **What is the ONE truth God wants us to see about Jesus?**
2. **How do we enjoy God more today?** 5

01. What is the ONE truth God wants us to see about Jesus?

There are many truths in this passage about Jesus:

- **God's sovereign plan in Jesus doesn't always make sense to us.**

Jesus – at the start of his grand redemption ministry - gets invited to a wedding feast– and He goes.

- **Jesus loves to celebrate – He loves parties.**

- God commanded his people in His law to party - celebrate. 7 annual feasts – Passover, Unleaven Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Booths. 1 monthly – New Moon & 1 weekly - Sabbath.

*Point God loves partying – and even commanded it! How? **In a celebration – remember and tell.***

- Jesus obviously was thought of as a good time – you don't invite him to a week long party otherwise.

That people think Christians and worse Jesus is boring and not into celebrations – is just wrong and sad.

The wine runs out and his mother - bc they were family & Mary was in the planning party - asks Jesus to intervene.

- **God's sovereign plan in Jesus is never altered – even as he cares for us.**

- Mary knew Jesus had powers beyond the average human – so she pressed Him to do something.

It seems (speculation) that she had seen God's power move through him before this moment. Maybe he healed a bird, never been sick, cured a brother – whatever it was – she knew – she pressed.

- But God had a sovereign plan in coming to this wedding to reveal himself to a few – not all (my hour) and Mary would not change that plan.

Jesus takes old stone ceremonial washing jars that represented the old Covenant with God to make wine. The washing was a picture of 3 things: God is holy, we are not: we need someone to come and make us clean before God.

- **Jesus declares I am the Promised One in all of God's Word.**

*- God takes these huge old stone jars that represented the hope of God coming to make them clean and said – here I am – the one who fills every promise you have been waiting for and hoping for in the old covenant. **9:30***

Here is the One Truth – God wants us to see about Jesus ...

JOHN 20:11 (ESV) This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

*"glory" lit. weighty / In scripture: the overwhelming nature of God that reveals He is the **Greatest of All.***

*"manifest his glory" – to show the true, overwhelming nature of God revealing Him as the **Greatest of All.***

In the midst of a giant celebration of joy, God used this miracle to show the disciples Jesus was the Greatest of All, the real joy. God let these guys alone see this – even the bride, his friends – did not see.

As God reveals Jesus to us as the Greatest of All – He becomes our joy!

How can we see Jesus as the Greatest of All – so we can begin to say, “I enjoy God?”

- **Ask God to humble you with His great POWER – and you will see Jesus as the Greatest of All.**

JOHN 20:6-9, 11 (ESV) 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine,

Jesus displayed the unlimited power of God *as He made 681 Liters of wine or 908 bottles of wine or 101 cases of wine. Jesus proved He was unlimited in His power because this miracle only took as long as it took the servants to fill these jars. And, it was done in a word. The result – JOY at the PARTY. What a picture – God shows up in unlimited power and there is joy. Even great and more direct – the disciples saw and were not just amazed – they were humbled and began to know the joy of God in their souls.*

11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

When Jesus displays His unlimited power – some are amazed like watching a magician and others are humbled. Amazed just moves ours head. Humbled – moves our soul to see who we are and who God is.

We practice James 5 where God tells the elders to lead the church to pray over those who are sick. Recently, we prayed for a young woman who had been having crazy debilitating pain that was making it almost impossible to work and be a mom. In a short time – she was healed. At first I was amazed – wow – look what God did. Every time I talk to her and she says – I am so humble God has given me my mind back – I have been humbled.

God wants to move your soul to see you are limited and HE IS NOT! That He is all-Powerful and we have no real power at all – none to really help when people are in need – EXCEPT to point them to and take them to Jesus – the very presence of real joy. God still does miracles – to give us Himself – our joy!

- **Ask God to humble you with His great CARE – and you will see Jesus (God) as the Greatest of All.**

JOHN 20:9-10 (ESV) 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

- *Running out of wine at this type of large wedding feast would have brought a great deal of disrespect to this family. Jesus did not have to intervene and for sure did not intervene every time a friend under-planned or made a human mistake. God does not heal every person with a disease or sickness. Why? I don't know. His sovereign plans are not like mine. I do know this: He cares for us – whether he intervenes or not. In the case of sickness. All in Christ are healed – may be here or in heaven. Healing here just means he will have to do it again. Everything here is just temporary – a picture of what will be one day.*

- *On this occasion, Jesus, God who was at the beginning of His ministry to restore the brokenness of this world – took time to come to a wedding, intervened in a mess, and cared for his friend - without his friend knowing!*

Stop and think. How often do you think God has miraculously cared for you without you knowing?

I believe more than you and I can count. How many times have things miraculously worked out in your life when you know they shouldn't have. How many times should you have died already because of your sin or others sin – and God has said - not yet? Driving on 820 (STL 610– should have been crushed by two semis – but nothing.

11 ... And his disciples believed in him.

Stop and think. How often do you think God has miraculously cared for you – and others saw?

Darrin Patrick Journey Pastor has been cared for a year by a team led by, organized, and paid for by the very church he sinned against. That is miraculous. Even more – he has responded well and reconciled with many he hurt. I was talking with the lead pastor – he's tired and encouraged, wanted to chunk it all at times – but God's power carried him and his team. I got to encourage him with this. A29 Pastors are encouraged, the body at large outside the Journey is encourage, and even unbelievers. Atheists engaged me with this comment: why did they do this. No one does this. Huh! The pastor was humbled. Miracles are never just for you! God's miraculous care is meant to humble us so we see he is the greatest of All. When we see His care affecting many, we are humble.

02. How do we enjoy God more today? 24 (pray to be humbled by his great power and care)

- **Believe. Trust – your soul to Jesus.** 11 ... And his disciples believed in him.

The miracle of the wine was more than just water to wine. *This encounter for the disciples was a huge moment that allowed them to see themselves as the least of all – and Jesus as the Greatest of All. Today – is this what you see?*

God has been intervening in your life for this moment so you would believe in Jesus. All was written and all has been done so you will see Him as the Greatest of All and believe – trust your soul to Him.

- **Celebrate God revealing Jesus.** (to you and us) / **Remember and Tell.**

Remember the feasts God in which commanded his people to celebrate. The reason – it helped them enjoy God by remembering of His miraculous deeds that humbled them and then by telling of His greatness. (ie. Communion) Today – we will do this a different way with a large stone. Let me tell you the story and then Brian will lead us through this process in just a moment.

God was bringing his people into the Promised Land – generations ago promised to Abraham. Moses had led the people out of Egypt, now Joshua was in charge to bring them in. The river Jordan had to be crossed and it was flood season – which made it impossible. So God dried up the river hundreds of miles upstream to allow them to pass. Before they did – God told Joshua to get a man from each of the 12 tribes and get 12 stones to carry to where they would camp that night. He had some celebrating to do – as do we!

JOSHUA 4: 19-22, 24 (ESV) 19 The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. 20 And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. 21 And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' 22 then you shall let your children know, (care) 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' ... 24 so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, (power) that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

This rock is going to help us celebrate the glory of God:

1. **Remember a miracle.** Where did God reveal Jesus is the Greatest of All?

miracles – when God does something that supersedes all human or natural laws of this world or when God does something to reverse the brokenness of this world.

(humbled by unlimited power & care) Rescued you or someone you love, healed a diseased body, reconciled a broken marriage, restored a believer, birthed a baby that should not have been born, reconciled a broken friendship,

2. **Tell the story.** Share this with family or friends and Community Group.

Story – I want to leave joy as a legacy – but I can't. Only God can. I think this is the whole point of why we were created – to enjoy God and the love and joy He has known for eternity in Father, Son, and Spirit. It is why we are here – to enjoy Him together. It is what we will do for eternity – enjoy him together. So let's begin to enjoy God!

Our practical action will not make us enjoy God – if we do not believe Jesus' action (His miraculous resurrection) has given us the very joy of God's presence.

Jesus emptied Himself of his eternal joy on the cross and took our prideful sin that seeks to find joy in everything but God. When he rose from the dead – He now gives us the fullness of God's joy in His Spirit. This is miracle – this unlimited miracle that brings us God's care – allows us to now go and remember and tell of all the ways God's presence is with us showing us He is The Greatest of All. As you remember – enjoy God. As you tell – enjoy God.

BLESSING – Zephaniah 3:17-18 a

¹⁷ For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."

¹⁸ "I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals;