

11/19/95

The Wedding Feast At Cana
Jn. 2:1-12

Have you ever been at a wedding reception where they run out of food or drink? If you have you know exactly the feelings of panick and embarrassment all at the same time. Equally you know the viciousness and rude comments that guests can make if they are aware of it.

Such was the case at the wedding feast at Cana!

We want to look at four thing regarding the wedding feast at Cana.

- I. The people at the wedding. vs. 1-3,5,8-9
- II. The problem at the wedding. vs. 3-8
- III. The proclamation at the wedding. vs. 9-12
- IV. The principles from the wedding.

I. The people at the wedding. vs. 1-3,5,8-9

A.. Mary the mother of Jesus was present at the wedding at Cana.

- 1. She must of been part of the wedding party or related to the family for she gives orders to the servants. vs. 1,5
* Mormon's declare this was the wedding of Jesus.

- 2. She is alone, Joseph is not mentioned, a good indication that he had died, since he is not mentioned after the teen years of Jesus.
- 3. She is not mentioned after this event in John's gospel, till the cross. 19:25-27
- 4. Cana was nine miles from Nazareth, in the lower Galilee distinct from the one in Syria.
 - a. The name means "reed" derived from the reeds growing in the marshy plain below Cana.
 - b. Cana was the home of Nathanael. 20:2

B. Jesus and His disciples

- 1. Jesus had been invited along with His disciples. vs. 2
 - a. Andrew.
 - b. John.
 - c. Peter.
 - d. Philip.
 - e. Nathanael.
 - f. James possibly.
- 2. Their arrival was on the third day.
 - a. The third day is in connection to the forth day of the previous chapter. 1:43
 - b. The day would be the sixth or the seventh depending whether you counted the fourth as the first of the three or not..
* It is obvious that John is concerned with our knowing the sequence and the day, leading up to the wedding. 1:29,35,43,2:1

- c. The Mishnah, the Jewish oral tradition of the law containing interpretations and applications to specific questions which the law dealt only in principle and it stated that virgins married on Wednesday, widows on Thursday and the wedding lasted one week or two.
 - 1) The procession was led by the groom and his friends who would arrive at the brides house at night and would then proceed to the grooms house where the feast would take place for the week.
 - 2) Some say that the third day means the third day of the wedding and see a hidden meaning of Israel's future restoration. Hos. 6:2
 - 3) Others say it means the third day after the fourth of the previous chapter, which would make it the sixth or the seventh day towards the end of the wedding.
 - * This perhaps is the most logical in John's sequential order.
- C. The servants.
 - 1. They were the ones who were attending to the wedding.
 - 2. The word is "diakonos" a waiter on tables which is used for deacons in the church. vs. 5a, 9b
- D. The master of the feast.
 - 1. He was the superintendent of the dinning room, the table master who presided over the feast.
 - 2. He was one of the guest selected by lot to prescribe to the rest, the mode of drinking.

- 3. He also had the duty to place in order the tables, couches and arrange the courses, taste the food and wine before hand.
 - 1) The phrase "master of the feast" "arkitriklinos" is found only three times in the New Testament, all three are here in John. vs. 8-9
 - 2) The phrase is derived form the word "triclina" which were couches for three people to recline at dinner to eat.
 - * This is the way people ate and the reason why the Scriptures tell us that John leaned on the breast of Jesus!
- E. The groom.
 - 1. He is mentioned only once. vs. 9c
 - 2. He was responsible for all the arrangements with his family.
 - 3. He and his family had invited the various guests to witness his commitment and celebrate with him.

The people at the wedding were pointed out by John!

II. The problem at the wedding. vs. 3-8

- A. The mother of Jesus came to Him and declared that they were out of wine. vs. 3
 - * Some have suggested that Mary was politely asking Jesus and His disciples to withdraw from the feast because by their coming the shortage resulted, but it says they were invited. vs. 2
 - 1. Did she think he had brought some?

2. Did she think would go get some?
 3. Did she see an opportunity to demonstrate to all that in fact she had conceived Him by the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Remember she must of suffered much through her life, through gossip and talk, being looked down upon for her pregnant condition prior to her marriage to Joseph!
 - b. Pharisees said to Christ, "We are not born of fornication." Jn. 8:41
- B.** There were potential social problems.
1. The fact that they had not made adequate provisions for the wedding was an embarrassing events for the family.
 2. There was a reciprocal liability in the ancient east, that made a person liable for improper preparations or bring an improper gift. (N.T. Commt.:p.p. 177)
 3. This would be no way to start their marriage.
- C.** The Messiah Jesus had begun His ministry. vs. 4-5.
1. Mary was pressured by the circumstances and attempted to pressure Jesus to act on her petition.
 2. Jesus responds with honor and respect. vs. 4a-b
* The phrase "Woman" in the Aramaic is used for respect and uses it from the cross for her and Mary Magdalene. 19:26, 20:15
 2. Jesus in a mild reproof communicates very clearly to her that He is guided now by the will of God his

- Father not her motherly authority, "What does your concern have to do with Me?". vs. 4c
3. Jesus declares that His, "Hour had not yet come". vs. 4d
 - a. The phrase is repeated throughout the gospel of John. 7:30, 8:20, 12:23, 27, 17:1?
 - b. The phrase in the context could be interpreted to mean the specific time to act was not according to her but God.
 - c. The phrase certainly points to the ultimate hour He came for, to die for the sins of the world.
 4. Mary submits to the clear communication of Jesus. vs. 5
* She addressed the servants to do as He would bid them.
- D.** The only provisions they had was water. vs. 6-8
1. Jesus took what they had and make it sufficient. vs. 6
 - a. The purification pots were present for the people to wash their hands and feet at the beginning of meals and between courses, according to their rites.
 - b. The cups, plates and many other things had to be washed
 - c. There were six containing around 120 to 180 gallons.
* Six is the number of man and imperfection, the stone pots represented the law which was insufficient through the weakness of man to

- bring us to God but could only lead us to Christ!
2. Jesus told the servants to fill them to the brim. vs. 7
 3. Jesus told the servants to draw some out and take it to the master of the feast. vs. 8

The problem at the wedding was not a light matter!

III. The proclamation at the wedding. vs. 9-12

- A. The master of the feast commended the groom. vs. 9-10
 1. The table master as his duty required him, tasted the water that had been made into wine. vs. 9a
 2. He did not know where the wine came from. vs. 9b
 3. The servants withdrew the water were the only ones who knew. vs. 9b
 4. The table master called the bridegroom. vs. 9d
 5. The groom was credited with doing something he did not do nor could he do. vs. 10
 - a. The master of the feast acknowledge the custom of putting out good wine at first. vs. 10a-b
 - b. The master of the feast declared that once the guests had drunken some and their taste buds had been savored then an inferior wine would be put out. vs. 10c-d
 - 1) The expression does not mean intoxicated as some suggest.
 - 2) The practice was discrete.

- 3) The practice saved the groom money.
- c. The master of the feast praise the groom for keeping the best till the end, contrary to tradition. vs. 10e

- B. The miracle at Cana was the first miracle of Jesus. vs. 11-12
 1. The miracle was the beginning of signs Jesus did, the first of seven in John and a second one also took place in Cana. vs. 11a, 4:54.
 2. The miracle manifested His glory as the only begotten Son of God who became incarnate. vs. 11b, 1:14

* The word manifested means to reveal, the miracle as a sign "semeior" is not so much focusing on the power or the miracle as much as pointing beyond them to the deity ad person of Jesus as God.
 3. The miracle cause His disciples to believe in Jesus. vs. 11c
 - a. They had already believe din Him as Son of God and King of Israel. 1:49
 - b. They were actively believing in Jesus .

* John uses the verb not the noun in his gospel, faith is active for John and the climax of every encounter is that through these signs written people will believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing they might have life. 20:31
 4. The miracle moved Jesus on to His ministry headquarters. vs. 12a

- a. Capernaum was about 20 miles from Cana on the Sea of Galilee and Jesus pronounced "woes" over it for her privilege of having the greater light. Matt. 11:23
- b. The company was divided. vs. 12c-e
 - 1) His mother who believed in Him. vs. 12c
 - 2) His brother who did not believe in Him. vs. 12d, 7:5
 - 3) His disciples who believed. vs. 12e

The proclamation at the wedding resulted in God's glory! being manifested

IV. The principles from the wedding.

- A. The Lord Jesus approved and commends marriage for a man and woman as His institution.
 - 1. He gave it to Adam and Eve. Gen. 2:24-25
 - 2. He celebrated it at Cana. Jn. 2:1-12
 - 3. He uses it as the figure of our relationship to him in the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - a. For your maker is your husband... your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Is. 54:5
 - b. For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2Cor. 11:2
* The analogy of Christ to the church and husbands to their wives in marriage is the epitome of honor. Eph. 5:21-33

- B. The most important person in a wedding is Jesus.
 - 1. The focus of the wedding in Cana was on Christ not the groom, the bride wasn't even mentioned.
 - 2. The groom and bride are certainly necessary but without Christ they will never experience marriage as God intended.
 - 3. The Lord Jesus must be invited to be part of the wedding and the marriage throughout life.
- C. The Joy of marriage comes from Jesus.
 - 1. Wine in the Scriptures is symbolic of joy not for us to get intoxicated, for it is condemned.
* And wine that make glad the heart of man. Ps. 104:15
 - 2. The only ones who knew where the wine came from were the servants.
 - a. There will be people that will attribute the success of your marriage to your own stability, finances, character.
 - b. The servants of God know as well as yourselves that is from the Lord.
 - 3. The Joy that Jesus gives in marriage is many times through the most difficult and at times painful times if we are willing to admit that I am out of wine and trust Him.
- D. The quality and joy of marriage is to increase contrary to tradition.
 - 1. Most marriages and relationships begin good and passionate, in fact they can't keep their hands off each other.

2. Then after the newness and passion of lust is worn away, the commitment and passion wanes.
 3. The Christian is to begin with fervent joy and commitment and increase, contrary to the word.
- E. The glory of God is to be manifested in marriage.
1. As husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her, God is glorified.
 2. As wives submit to their own husbands and honor them, God is glorified.
 3. As Parents bring up their children in the Lord, God is glorified.
 4. As children obey their parent, God is glorified.
- F. The miracle of Jesus in your marriage should cause you to believe more in Him.
1. His daily love to sustain and keep you faithful to your mate.
 2. His ability to change you and transform you through the difficult times in your marriage.
 3. His mercies that are meted out to you every morning.
 4. His wisdom to run your home.

The principles from the wedding will bless us and glorify God!

Conclusion

The wedding feast at Cana has showed us four important things.

- I. The people at the wedding were pointed out by John!

- II. The problem at the wedding was not a light matter!
- III. The proclamation at the wedding resulted in God's glory being manifested!
- III. The principles from the wedding will bless us and glorify God!