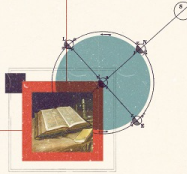




# grace & truth.



## Grace & Truth Week 3: John 2:1-25

In the passage we considered this week we considered two different episodes in the life of Jesus which appear to be very different from one another. When looked at side by side, we learn that Jesus defies our attempts to place him in a nice, comfortable, tidy box. The real Jesus both comforts and confronts, surprises and startles, fills cups and flips tables when necessary for God's glory and our good.

### Discussion Questions:

- Icebreaker: What is the funniest thing you have witnessed at a wedding?
- At this time in Jesus' life he was not yet known as a miracle worker, so why does Mary approach him (v. 3)? What do you learn about Jesus and his mother from verses 3-5?
- What part does the function and size of the jars play in this story? How does the quantity and quality of the wine demonstrate Jesus' glory?
- How does this first "sign" relate to the "hour" he refers to in v. 4 (See John 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1)?
- Jesus was angry in the temple because prayer and worshipful reflection on the nature of atoning sacrifice had been replaced by a mechanical ritual devoid of true worship. In what ways are we tempted to reduce our spirituality to mechanistic religious activity instead of a heartfelt relationship with God based on Jesus' ultimate atoning sacrifice?
- Jesus overturned the furniture of the temple like he owned the place—because he truly did! If you compare your spiritual life to a house, which room(s) do you think Jesus might want to clean up?
  - A. Family Room—where most of your relationships are lived out
  - B. Dining Room—your appetites and desires
  - C. Workshop—where you keep your gifts, skills, and talents
  - D. Recreation Room—where you hang out and/or consume entertainment
  - E. Closet—where your hang-ups are
- Do you welcome or resist Jesus' "clean-up" operation in your life?