

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 2:1-12

Sermon Notes – BK

March 3, 2024

The Gospel of John... CHAPTER 2!!

LAST WEEK

- We polished off chapter 1 with Jesus going to Galilee, (about 100 miles north; this is a long 4–5-day journey likely) ...
- Jesus “found” Philip and called him to be His disciple.
- Philip then finds Nathaniel (Bartholomew) to tell him of Jesus, just as Andrew went to find Simon Peter.
- Jesus’ encounter with Nathaniel is special
 - o John includes this exchange as a glimpse into how Jesus interacted with His disciples
 - o The interplay with “*A true Israelite, in whom there is no deceit (Jacob)*” – then the “*...angels ascending and descending on the Son of man...*”
 - o Powerful AND insightful to the mission of Jesus as the Savior of all who call on Him...

Jesus calls out who these men will be AND calls out to who they are.

This week, we change gears...

- John SET THE STAGE...
- Jesus begins His ministry
- THIS WORLD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

We have talked about how unique the Gospel of John is, and how thoughtful John is in writing this Gospel...

One of the major things we have not yet talked of much is how we see John’s groupings of SEVEN

- o While not listed as much, they are hidden in the fabric of his record of Jesus and His ministry...

Why seven?

I found this summarized well in one of my sources...

“According to Hebrew tradition every number has a symbolic significance. Three, seven, ten, and twelve are known as the “perfect” numbers.

Seven is the second perfect number signifying fullness and perfection, especially spiritual perfection.” [Source](#)

What is the first “seven” we see in the Bible?

The SEVENTH DAYS of Creation

Where else in the NT do we see a whole lot of “sevens?”

The book of Revelation – Surprise!

The book of Revelation is written by the same John!

- We see “seven” at least 36 times in Revelation.
 - Seven **Churches**
 - Seven **Spirits** before the throne of God
 - Seven **Stars**
 - Seven **Golden Lampstands**
 - Etc...

In His Gospel, John does not use the number seven directly, but they are there for those who pay attention...

- They play out in the Gospel very intentionally...
 - **Seven days of events** in Chapters 1 and 2 (literal, or groups of time – not clear, but listed this way intentionally)
 - **Seven signs**
 - **Seven “I am” statements** of Jesus
 - **Seven days (Chapters 13-17)** that **culminate** to the seventh sign, Jesus’ resurrection.

We see the unveiling of the “first sign” of 7 that John gives - TODAY!

PAUSE

I have to say...

Preparing for this message, *I had more “aha” moments* than I have had in a long time – possibly ever. Not an over-statement.

Today we read what we commonly call “*The miracle at the wedding in Cana,*” here in John 2:1-12

Let’s read it...

John 2:1-12

¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹When 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 ¹⁰and 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.” ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

“On the third day...”

There are **different ways this is interpreted** –

- **Literally the “third day”** after the **encounter with Nathaniel**
- Simply a **time-period that was commonly used** (not nec. Three days)
- I read an interesting article this week that points out, in Hebrew what is translated as “**the third day**” **actually had to the days after the Sabbath, so it literally meant it was a Tuesday.**
 - o It was customary (apparently) for Jewish people of that time to have their **wedding on a Tuesday because it was the third day of creation God said “it was good” twice.**

I take pause here because...

John makes note it was “**On the third day**” **for a reason, maybe more than likely to establish the validity of the event.**

- o **An actual wedding**, likely people of Jesus’ family
- o **Setting the stage** for an amazing display of glory (v.11) that unfolds
- o **This marks the first of SEVEN signs Jesus performs in this Gospel... (More in a bit)**

At the wedding was Jesus’ mother Mary.

- She may have been **part of the planning**
- **She had a vested interest** in this wedding, that much is **clear.**

The Chosen – I believe recreated this wedding well in Season 1, Episode 5

- They **capture many of the elements** of this event well.
- They show the **many dynamics at play** – **WAY more** than making a bunch of wine.

Weddings were the highlight of most people’s year in that day, if they could attend one.

- Tremendous **pressure**
- Much **expectation**
- **Hospitality** was of the UTMOST importance.

SO... when we read what happens here, *it makes sense...*

3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”

To run out would be **total humiliation.**

- **Mary came to their aid and knew where the answer was**
- **Mary knew the character** of her son
- **SO... she asked.** (*Jerrie pointed out to me how big “the ask” was for her in this story*)

We read next...

4And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”

Our language does not translate this very well.

This sounds pretty rude, does it not?

In the original language, this is not the case.

- It was **formal**, but it was **respectful**
- It would be more like, *“Woman, dear...”*
- It does indicate that **Jesus’ loyalties are with the Father** – a *shift here too maybe?*

The **Amplified** puts it –

4 Jesus said to her, “[Dear] woman, what is that to you and to Me?

This is the heart of it –

Then we see, *“My hour has not yet come.”*

- This *seems confusing*
 - o *One side: Did Jesus not care?*
 - o *Other side: Is this even appropriate to ASK of Jesus?*
- If it’s not time, then it’s NOT time...

Why would Jesus say *“My hour has not yet come.”* ?

Thoughts:

- Jesus is saying it was **not yet time for His “outward-facing ministry”** to be revealed...
- It could be that there is **some “heavy-heartedness”** to it, knowing **this was going to put the next stage of His ministry into motion...**

Whatever the case, we see Jesus actually does act in a way that honors the request of His mother, and does not yet reveal (publicly) who He is... at least not yet...

CONTINUING in the story...

What happens next in the story, after Jesus tells her, *“My hour has not yet come...”*

It still makes me chuckle, as MARY SAYS...

“Do whatever he tells you.”

While this passage does make me smile, there was something else that hit me while I was studying...

- Mary birthed Jesus physically
- Could it be that this request of Jesus her son was another kind of “birth” she was a catalyst for?

Mary had full trust in the character of Jesus to do the right thing...

While this “sign” Jesus performed was (not “public” per-se), it did seem to put everything in motion...

Let’s go on...

6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

- Six “rites of purification” jars

- These jars for **holding the water for their ceremonial washing**
- **Considered “clean” vessels**
- **Stone** – they were **ordinary vessels, but set aside** for purification purposes
- **It is INTERESTING there were only 6** (NOT 7) – **TAKE NOTE**

- Each held **20-30 gallons** – they were **BIG**

Jesus has the servants fill them... so they did, “*...they filled them up to the brim.*”

- The servants **obeyed Jesus’ orders ALL** the way.
- Could you **imagine what they were thinking?**

Reading on...

John 2:8

And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it.

- There is no pause mentioned
- There are no questions asked
- They understood what was at stake
- What would happen to them if they just served the master of the feast just water?
- When did they know it was now wine?

The story moves fairly quickly UNTIL this point...

Then we see the response more fully...

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.”

For those of you who have read this before, or have heard this taught at other times, we see it is...

- Cute that Jesus “listened to His mom.”
- A great story of Jesus providing what was needed, even if “it was not His time.”
- Amazing how Jesus provided so much wine – and “the best stuff” no less...

YES... this is a story of “Water to wine...” But there is SO much more.

As you can imagine with John, there is a WHOLE LOT for us to see here –

PAUSE

So... What is the MEAT here?

JOHN HIGHLIGHTS some key things here – though “under the surface”:

- Weddings – the importance of the symbol of Marriage from the first to the last – Genesis 2 to Revelation 19!
- Wine - OLD and NEW...

OLD:

- Old – The “original wine” ran out (like the Old Covenant)
- Old – 6 jars of purification – The OLD way was incomplete
- Old – Once the jars were used for wine, they would no longer be used or useful for purification

NEW:

- New Wine (though better than the first)
- New Way – by the work of Jesus, not by our own doing – Fulfilling a prophesy we see in Isaiah

Is. 25:6-9,

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

- New Work – While the wine of the story was over and abundant... the NEW way of seeing it (as Jesus refers to it as His blood) – OVER and ABUNDANT grace because of the blood of Jesus!

There is a SHIFT taking place...

What Jesus says in Mark 2 fits perfectly here...

Mark 2:21-22

²¹ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

We see this demonstrated at the “last Supper”

Matthew 26:27-28

²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Back to John...

John 2:11

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

The first of the “Seven signs” of Jesus has now been displayed for us to see...

Like the multi-layered/dimensional MASTERPIECE it is, there are MANY layers.

They make sense to us now...

They made great sense to John as he crafted this Gospel... but ***AT THE TIME, the depth of significance would have been missed.***

That said, John tells us... ***And his disciples believed in him.***

They saw the plan of God unfold before them.
They followed and did their best they could in the moment and at that time.

Later... **AFTER** the resurrection...

They saw it clearly. They were used to change the world.

Is this not like our own lives sometimes?

In the moment, we know ***God is working*** – but **do not see the ramifications** of it until later.

May we seek Him today for this!

THIS was the launch, a sort of birth of what was to come...

12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

NEXT WEEK... we see something just a little more public than the miracle of the water to wine... BUT for today...

Not too many messages lend itself more perfectly than this one does for our time of Communion...

Matthew 26:27-28

27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

The New wine – is a new wine of purification for us today!

To make us totally NEW!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Let us thank Him/seek Him/ask Him...