

GROWING DEEPER

What are some of your favorite wedding experiences or memories? What is the strangest thing you have ever seen happen at a wedding? Why are weddings so important?

In all the gospels there are 37 miracles recorded; in the Gospel of John there are eight richly symbolic miracles documented (John 21:25). What symbolism might there be in Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana? John calls Jesus' miracle a sign, but what is the purpose of this sign? What is the greater Kingdom reality the sign is pointing to? What does this miracle show about the character of God? What does this miracle show us about the concern of God? What concerns and difficulties in your life do you need to bring to Jesus? How can you, like Mary, bring the difficulties and shame others are experiencing to Jesus?

How does this miracle point to Jesus showing Himself to be one with the Creator? How does the miracle show that Jesus transforms the water of Judaism into the new wine of Christianity? The jars Jesus uses to perform the miracle were used for ritualistic and ceremonial cleaning. How do people in our contemporary society try to cleanse their feelings of sin and shame? What secular rites and rituals of purification are used to try to cleanse the conscience? How does Jesus' coming death forgive us and cleanse us? Why is a clear conscience so important to your spiritual vitality? How would you describe the effect that sin has on your conscience?

How can we pray for one another to be forgiven, cleansed and empowered? Is there anything you need to confess to one another in order to have a clear conscience? What praises can you offer to God for what He has done and is doing in your life?

LOVE
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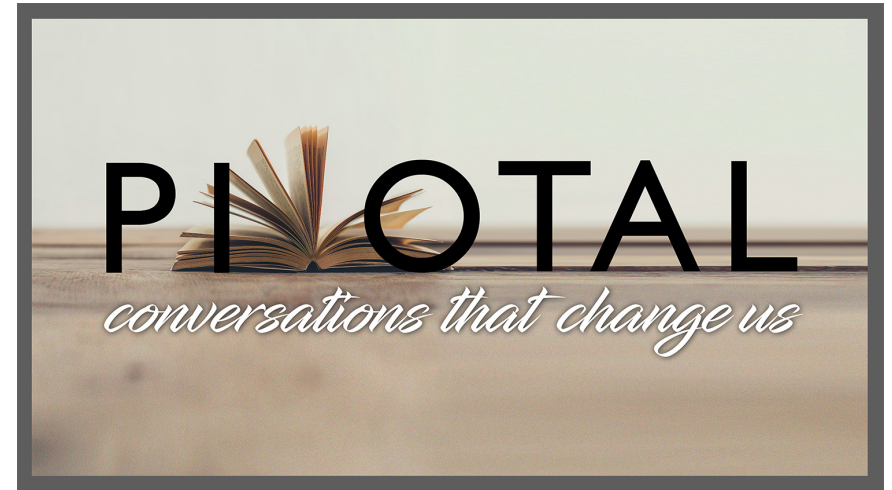
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THE WEDDING PARTY

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

John 2:11 ^(ESV)

