

Knowing Jesus Through His Kindness

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: How do you "know" someone?

Q: How does someone "know" you?

Table Time: At your tables work through the following

READ: John 2:1-11 "On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And 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." 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, 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." ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him."

Q: What's interesting about the first four words of verse 1?

Q: What's odd about the exchange between Mary and Jesus in verses 3 and 4?

Q: What's Mary's response to Jesus in verse 5? Was this her faith? Was this mom, just being mom? What does this tell you about the Mom/Son dynamics?

Q: So, what strikes you about this "sign"? Like what did the "sign" point to or tell us about Jesus?

Q: What do YOU think about that?

Q: According to verse 11, ULTIMATELY, what's the "sign" about?

Q: How did that impact the disciples? Why do you think that is?

BIG GROUP DEBRIEF...

READ: Romans 2:4 "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

Q: What is the "kindness and forbearance and patience" of God supposed to do? Why would THAT lead you there?

READ: Ephesians 2:4-10 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace **in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.** ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Q: How has God's kindness been manifested to us?

Q: What is that supposed to do TO us and IN us and THROUGH us?

Q: How can you and I reflect THIS to others?

Q: How might a pattern of kindness and grace and mercy and love be the way you are "known" to others? In other words, how might that form and influence your reputation?

READ: Colossians 3:12-14 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, **kindness**, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

Q: In the "list" above, kindness is included! How might this list help us in our witness, relationships, and mission?

Q: What's ONE way you can start to do that today, this week, this season?

Q: How might doing that, lead others to "know" you differently?