

## ENCOUNTER 2.22.26

### TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE-DOWN

Pastor Carlos

Jesus, the Living Expression of God, has finally arrived on the scene—and he is far different from anyone’s expectations. Many of the religious people of Jesus’ day were actively watching for a savior, but the savior they expected was a political leader to free them from Roman rule and oppression. Jesus, however, hadn’t come to earth to change their circumstance. He came to do the will of The Father. He came for US! He brought eternal salvation—opening the way to be ONE with God and enjoy eternal life in him!

Who did he extend this invitation to?

ALL MEN

FOR ALL TIME

Still today, Jesus continues to defy our religious expectations.

Religion: return to bondage

Can I interest any of you in a return to bondage?

Where we expect God’s condemnation and judgment, Jesus comes to say, God is full of something else: love and grace.

WE CAN ALL BE FORGIVEN

Exodus 34:6-7 NLT

[6] The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

Moses experienced this on a mountain in a desert. Jesus meets people in the conditions of our life.

John 2:1-5 NLT

[1] The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, [2] and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration.

Weddings in Jesus’ day were week-long festivals. Banquets would be prepared for many guests, and the week would be spent celebrating the new life of the married couple, Often

the whole town was invited, and everybody would come. It was considered an insult to refuse an invitation to a wedding

[3] The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

To accommodate many people, careful planning was needed. To run out of wine was more than embarrassing; it broke the strong unwritten laws of hospitality. Jesus was about to respond to a heartfelt need.

Now we have no way of knowing whether or not this was Mary's first time requesting something from Jesus. What we do know, is she trusted him to act in a way that may seem unconventional.

[4] "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."  
[5] But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Call and response:

I say, whatever He tells you

You say, do it

Let me see the tickets

John 2:9-10 MSG

[9-10] When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!"

"Religion has failed; it has run out of wine. The traditions of religion, the traditions of men, cannot gladden the heart, but I know a man who is not only able, He's willing. Moses (representing the Law) turned water into blood, but Jesus (full of grace and truth) turned water into wine."

2 Kings 5

Naaman made well

2 Kings 6:1-7 NLT

[1] One day the group of prophets came to Elisha and told him, "As you can see, this place where we meet with you is too small. [2] Let's go down to the Jordan River, where there

are plenty of logs. There we can build a new place for us to meet.” “All right,” he told them, “go ahead.” [3] “Please come with us,” someone suggested. “I will,” he said. [4] So he went with them. When they arrived at the Jordan, they began cutting down trees. [5] But as one of them was cutting a tree, his ax head fell into the river. “Oh, sir!” he cried. “It was a borrowed ax!” [6] “Where did it fall?” the man of God asked. When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water at that spot. Then the ax head floated to the surface. [7] “Grab it,” Elisha said. And the man reached out and grabbed it.

The prophet Elisha is a powerful man of God.

What are you?

Jesus was The Son of God

Who are you?

Jesus set a precedent with his first miracle here—that he loves to shower his friends with good things, giving them with joyful abandon. The bridegroom went from having no wine at all—meaning certain humiliation—to receiving compliments on serving the best wine in town—all thanks to Jesus’ extravagant generosity.

WHATEVER He tells you?

How can you be sure it's God?

Nothing will ever take the place of knowing His voice.

Nothing will ever replace becoming familiar with His presence

How can you turn up the volume of His voice:

Spending time in His WORD

Spending time in worship

You don't sing good?

Don't worry, God already knows

Moses didn't talk good, and that worked out just fine for the nation of Israel

God says to Moses tell Pharaoh to let my people go

Whatever He says

Do it

Spending time in His house

Spending time with

the Lord's next encounter recorded in the Gospel of John exemplified his sense of extravagant truth and justice. In the temple, where the people purchased animals to be sacrificed so they could cover their sins and be acceptable to a holy God, Jesus saw egregious sins being committed: Those selling the animals AND those exchanging currency for the temple tax were vastly overcharging the people in order to line their own pockets!

One guess how Messiah responds

He found some rope and created a whip, then drove the corrupt merchants out of his Father's house

The purpose of the temple tax?

The purpose of the animals?

Is this not what people do?

Even "church" people, from Jesus' day, behaved badly

Jesus came to show us what The Father is REALLY like.

HE LOVES US