

That you would believe

Texts: John 2:1-11

The setting:

- Where: A wedding in Cana
- Who: Jesus' mom & disciples
- What: A significant and symbolic problem

Jesus replaces religiosity with a relationship, the purification of water with the wine of the Gospel.

The symbols:

- Wedding – Symbolic celebration of God's perfect love demonstrated in His covenant relationship to those who place their faith in Jesus. (Revelation 19:6-9; John 14:1-3; Isaiah 25:6-9)
- Wine – Symbolic of happiness, joy, and God's abundant blessings. (Joel 3:18; Jeremiah 31:12; Hosea 14:7; Amos 9:13-14; Psalm 4:6-8)
 - Happiness outside of Jesus is temporary and runs out, but Jesus brings lasting, overflowing joy!
- Hour – When Jesus is glorified through His death and resurrection. (John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20 VS. 12:20-23)

The meaning: Jesus is the promised bridegroom who loves His bride perfectly, paid the dowry price with His own life, and has come to take us as His own. In Jesus, we are invited into a life of celebration as we drink of His abundant and overflowing blessings and grace.

Question for reflection: Where am I looking for lasting satisfaction and acceptance? What in my life demonstrates this?

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Pray: Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

- How have you experienced God working in your life lately?
- Who has been working on the spiritual practice of prayer this month?
Who has been working on memorizing the verse for this month?
- Tell us about how that is impacting your daily walk with Jesus.

Looking up:

Read John 2:1-11. Then, have someone summarize this story in their own words.

What stood out to you about the sermon? What was helpful? Confusing? Inspiring?

Given that John's purpose was to show that Jesus is the source of salvation and true, overwhelming, and everlasting joy:

- Why do you think so many of us struggle to stay rooted in Jesus as the source of these things in our own lives?
- Be introspective and vulnerable. What does this reveal about what disbelief is still in your life?
- Where are you currently looking for the joy, satisfaction, and/or acceptance that Jesus was claiming to fulfill in this story?

Pray: Spend time praying together and for one another based on what is shared.

Looking forward:

What step of action is Jesus calling you to take this week? How can we support you and pray for you?

January's Memory Verse:

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Psalm 51:10-12 NLT