

The Book of John - 16

Introduction - We will finish the first half of chapter 12 and begin to look at the second half of John chapter 2. In the first 12 verses, we have the Lord Jesus Christ's first miracle at a wedding feast. In the latter 12 verses, we will read about the Passover in Jerusalem. Concerning the **wedding feast**, we have:

1. The **introduction** of the event. v1
2. The **invitation** to the event. v2
3. The **issue** at the event. v3
4. The **intimation** at the event. v3-4
5. The **instructions** from Mary's understanding. v5
6. The **immensity** of the miracle. v6
7. The challenging **instructions** from the Lord. v7
8. The **instruction** in the miracle. v8-11
9. The **importance** of this miracle. v11-12

In God's economy, the best is yet to come. The world gives **you the best upfront**, leaving you empty in the end. The Devil gives **you the best upfront**, leaving you empty in the end. The Lord, however, shows us the whole trajectory of God's work, "**The best is yet to come.**"

Notice with me in **verses 9 and 10 of John 2**, "*When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, **Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.***"

The governor was shocked by this uncommon gracious blessing. When someone receives Jesus Christ as their Saviour, they, by God's grace, are headed on **an upward trajectory**. The Bible says in **Romans 8:18**, "*18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*"

In **II Corinthians 4:16-18** we read these words, "*16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*"

Without the miracle of God's Salvation, everything is empty. There is no context or purpose for life without Christ. Solomon had it right when He penned, "*I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*" **Ecclesiastes 1:14**

Christ's miracle came after the identification of a need. Salvation is entered into by repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ **after they realize by God's revealing that they have a need.** For the Christian, likewise, blessedness in the Christian life comes in **our dependence upon God.**

Charles Spurgeon said, "It is good to run short that we may be driven to the Lord by our necessity, for he will more than supply it. If we have no need, Christ will not come to us. But if we are in dire necessity, his hands will stretch out to us. If our needs stand before us like huge empty water pots, or if our souls are as full of grief as those same pots were filled with water up to the brim, Jesus can, by his sweet will, turn all the water into wine—the sighing into singing. We should be glad to be weak so the power of God may rest on us."¹

Paul declared in **II Corinthians 12:9-10** *"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."*

No man can solve man's problems except the God-man. This wedding catastrophe speaks toward the inability of a man to address man's problems sufficiently. The only sufficient answer is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (**John 14:6**)

The character of Jesus' ministry brings joy. When we look at the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, we understand that looking backward at the cross, all Christ would do. But as we would think about all that is yet to happen in the lives of these involved in the text, they would need to understand that *"Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:"* (**Luke 24:46**) It is a beautiful reminder to you and me that the work of the Lord brings joy into our lives. These tremendous points and themes will be developed through this gospel record.

John 2:12 *"12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days."*

The usage of the word "and" provides emphasis on all the individuals that accompanied the Lord. Polysyndeton is **a list or series of words, phrases, or clauses connected with the repeated use of the same conjunction.** "This brief stay (**not many days**, οὐ πολλὰς ἡμέρας [*ou pollas hēmeras*]) in this important city (Tell Hum) on the north shore of Galilee was with Christ's mother, brothers (apparently friendly at first) and the six disciples, all in the fresh glow of the glory manifested at Cana. Surely Mary's heart was full." This place of Capernaum seems to be the base of operation for the Lord in Galilee.

¹ Spurgeon, The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1423.