

The Glory of Christ in Everyday Life

November 11, 2012

John 2:1-11

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Introduction: Have you ever had a really bad day? The last one I had went like this: I did not sleep well during the night....When I finally did get to sleep the alarm went off. I got two emails first thing in the morning that I had to answer so I was late getting showered and dressed to go to an appointment. I couldn't find my keys and when I did the phone rang with something else I needed to do. When I finally left I realized I had forgotten something important that I had to go back for. The person I was meeting did not answer their cell phone so I could not tell them I was late. It was a bad start to the day.

How about an event that did not go as planned. My sister planned her daughter's wedding reception in every detail....and she is very good at such things. But, nevertheless the photographer took over 2 hours after the wedding to take the pictures. The transportation to the reception had a problem and the guests sat in the heat outdoors with no food or drink for two hours because the caterer was told to start serving food when the bride and groom arrived. WOW! It was not a good reception.

Now most people [probably 98%] do not see God anywhere in the events I just described. It is Murphy they acknowledge. "If anything can go wrong it probably will!" But, God is everywhere at all times and makes constant claims about our daily life that most of us don't know, don't believe or forget. Here are just a few.

Proverbs 16:9 ⁹ The mind of man **plans** his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

Proverbs 19:21 ²¹ Many **plans** are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.

Proverbs 16:4 ⁴ The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, **Even the wicked** for the day of evil.

Psalms 22:28 ²⁸ For the kingdom is the LORD'S And He **rules** over the nations.

Psalms 103:19 ¹⁹ The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty **rules** over all.

Our Scripture this morning is an account of an everyday event that went bad for those who had planned it and were carrying it out. Like my sister's experience, it was a wedding. People get married all the time so it was not a unique happening. What makes it noteworthy is the presence of Mary, and Jesus....let's read about it together.

John 2:1-11 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ² and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 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 that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." ⁶ Now there were six stone water pots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He said to them, "Draw *some* out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it *to him*. ⁹ When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, ¹⁰ and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when *the people* have drunk freely, *then he serves* the poorer *wine*; *but* you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This beginning of *His* signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Why am I preaching this sermon: Jesus kept this pretty quiet at the time that it happened. There is no record that the groom knew about it or even the master of the wedding. Nor were the guests aware of anything out of the ordinary. But Christ was there and did something for everyday people living their everyday lives. The idea that Christ is only around when the big things happen is not supported by this event or by most of His miracles during His earthly life. People are always hungry...no big deal unless you are in the middle of a wilderness with no place to buy food. Storms come all the time. It is an everyday event unless you are in a boat in the middle of a lake at the time.

No one should have to guess what I plan to talk about: I would very much like for you to consider the presence of Christ in your everyday life while we look at this passage. Does He have anything to do with your everyday circumstances? Does He care about the joyful and pleasant things of your everyday life? Do you think He cares about a wedding or a wine shortage or was this just done so John could write it down in the Bible? Let's look at the celebration and the people and see. Let's examine.....

- The Wedding
- The Mother of Jesus
- The Wine
- The Servants
- The Miracle
- The Master of the Feast and the Groom
- The Disciples

The Wedding

John 2:1-2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ² and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

On the third day: John is describing the events starting with John the Baptist's encounter with the Jews and the calling of the first disciples. These things took place during a single week at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

There was a wedding: This is an important social event in the everyday life of Jesus day. These weddings sometimes lasted a week and was the culmination of an engagement period of many months. They often began on a Wednesday evening when the groom would go after dark and without announcing his arrival to get his bride and bring her back to his father's house where the celebration would begin. The bride had to be ready every night as did her attendants. The Groom could come at anytime and the marriage celebration would begin. There could be a lot of people and the groom was responsible to feed them during the entire time and provide them with wine. This is what Jesus was describing in His parable of the virgins.

Matthew 25:1-9 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² "Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. ³ "For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. ⁵ "Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep. ⁶ "But at **midnight** there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.' ⁷ "Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ "The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*;

The Mother of Jesus

In Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there: Cana is a small village about 9 miles from Nazareth. It was near Mary's home. This was probably the wedding of a family member or close friend.

Both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding: People don't just drop into weddings of strangers. Jesus was invited because He was part of the close circle that would be invited to a wedding celebration..

It is interesting to note that Mary "was there" but Jesus and His disciples "were invited." It appears that Mary had some role in the wedding celebration. When Jesus and His disciples arrived in Galilee they undoubtedly found that Mary had gone to be a part of this wedding.

When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine.": Mary, unlike even the headwaiter or the groom was aware that the wine had run out. This is a major social blunder, not to mention the fact that it would ruin the celebration. Wine was a major part of everyday life in Israel. It still is for that matter.

The Wine

It is not juice...it is wine. This is one of those topics that Christians usually pussyfoot around. So let's talk about wine. It was the main beverage of the Mediterranean culture of Israel and still is. It is alcoholic because the grapes grow with their own yeast on the skins. As soon as they are crushed for juice the fermentation process begins. This is the

same process which allows the juice to be preserved in a warm climate without refrigeration. It was the everyday drink of everyone and was considered an essential. Like all things in this world it is subject to abuse and misuse, but it is far from being forbidden in the Scripture. It is considered a pleasant gift from our Creator.

Psalm 104:13-15 ¹³ From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. ¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth ¹⁵ **and wine** to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

Jeremiah 31:11-13 ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, **the wine**, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us?" Returning to Mary for just a moment we have this rather unlikely response from Jesus. A couple of things are going on here. Jesus has just begun His earthly ministry and that is going to change His earthly relationship to His mother. This is something that seems to be lost on Catholicism in general. Mary was and is like every other human being who ever lived in relationship to Christ Jesus. She was the human instrument of His conception, but she was fully human, fully fallen and fully in need of a Savior. She herself knew it and affirmed it without hesitation.

Luke 1:46-50 ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "**My soul** magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Jesus' response is an idiomatic expression meaning, "what does that have to do with you and me?" In other words, I am a guest here, you are a servant, but it is the responsibility of the groom and his father to provide the wine. By calling her "woman" and not mother Jesus was signaling to us and the rest of the world that she was not divine and certainly not sinless. Giving birth to Jesus does not make her either of those things. When someone tried to start that superstition in Jesus' day He himself put an end to it decisively.

Luke 11:27-28 ²⁷ As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

My hour has not yet come.": Jesus used this phrase to refer to the cross and his resurrection

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that **his hour had come** to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

He is saying to Mary that it is not time for Him to be revealed to the world this way. He is just beginning His preaching ministry and all that it will entail. He did not want to reveal Himself for who He was in reality....God the Son and creator and sin bearer.

The Servants

John 2:5 ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

The word here is not slave but servant. It is the word we get deacon from. They were probably family or friends who were assisting at the wedding much like they would today at a reception. They may or may not have know Jesus, but they did know Mary and Mary knew that Jesus was the Christ.

Luke 1:31-33 ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 2:19 ⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

She was in a position to tell them to follow Christ's instructions. She gives a forceful command and then leaves them with Christ.

The Miracle

John 2:6-8 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.

there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons: If you were to put all this into a standard wine bottle like we have in our day it would be 60 cases of wine. There is a lot of liquid here and it all had to be hauled from a well by hand and dumped into these stone jars.

The normal use of these jars was for the ritual washing of dishes before their use and for hand washing before eating.

Mark 7:1-4 Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ² they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were

defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴ and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.)

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim: The detail about how full they filled them is interesting. If they still had some water in them they filled them entirely up to the edge with more water. The servants knew that they were drawing water out of the well to fill these jars. If any were empty they also filled them right up to the top.

And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it: The point here is simple. Nothing was added to the jars. It was not a trick. The jars were filled to the very top with water and then something happened to that water between the filling and the tasting of it by the master of the feast

The Headwaiter and the Groom

John 2:9 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."

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): There is no record in the Scripture that he ever did find out. John's parenthetical statement that the servants knew makes us think that they did not tell him. John could have said, "so the servants told him." This is in harmony with the way Jesus conducted a lot of His ministry. He was aware of the exact timeline for His death and also knew that He was not to be King during His first visit to earth. He was the Lamb....who takes away the sin of the world.

John 6:14-15 ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" ¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Luke 5:13-14 ¹³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. ¹⁴ And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

The master of the feast called the bridegroom: Further evidence that neither the groom or the master of the feast knew about the miracle. It was not done to impress. It was done to help people. Jesus loved people and did his miracles to help them. He

healed the sick, raised the dead, cleansed lepers, fed the hungry, stopped storms from killing people, made blind people see and lame ones walk. He was not a showman, but a lover of humanity.

"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.": I have a couple of books in my library that try to make the case that Jesus would never have ever made alcoholic wine. In fact they go so far as to contend that the wine in the Bible was not even alcoholic. The words translated "drunk freely" mean under the influence of the wine. Wine in the Bible is alcoholic.

Ephesians 5:18 ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine,

The clear understanding of these words is that the good wine was alcoholic and it also tasted good. After the guests senses were a little dulled then something of lesser quality would be brought out to keep the guests cared for.

The Disciples

John 2:11 ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee: Jesus did not make pidgeons out of clay and then bring them to life when he was a child. This was his first miraculous sign. What are signs for anyway? Are they just powerful displays to awe people? To answer that question let me ask you a question or two.

ILL: What if every sign on main street was exactly the same color, size and said exactly the same thing on it. What if every address sign or every street sign said exactly the same thing everywhere you went? NO! Signs have a singular purpose. They define something by identifying it as different from everything else around it. This was Jesus' first sign and He did it in Galilee just miles from where He grew up. Everyone thought they knew who Jesus was, but things were going to change in the weeks and months to come. Jesus' signs were going to distinguish Him from every other man who ever lived.

And manifested his glory: What is the glory of God anyway. We talk about it and The New Testament uses the expression 14 times. We say we want our lives to glorify God but what does that mean? Most believers mean this: "I want my life to make God look good to people." It is doubtful that any of us could ever make God look good. What we usually succeed in doing is make God look unmerciful, and unloving.

So...what is The Glory of God? It is the revelation of WHAT GOD IS. God's glory is Himself. When God glorifies Himself, and that is His primary purpose in creation, He puts Himself on display. All His goodness, mercy, grace and purity

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

And his disciples believed in him: They did not give some sort of intellectual assent to the existence of a historical Jesus. They did not pray a prayer or walk an aisle or sign a Gideon Bible page. They began to see GOD! GOD WITH US! GOD THE ONLY SON! It is like a single candle in a vast and pitch black cavern, but it is light...It is the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ. Paul saw it on the Damascus Road. He knew it was the Lord.

Acts 26:13-15 ¹³ at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. ¹⁴ "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵ "And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

In Christ God is self evident. When Christ is exalted the Glory of God is put on display by the Holy Spirit of God.

We are so like the people at that wedding. We plan our steps, but they veer off the path. We try to become masters of our destiny, but discover that we are more often mastered by our destiny. Our lives are in the hand of God. When we refuse to bow to this reality we become like Paul who was kicking furiously against a thorn bush. Every motion brings more pain.

Give your everyday life to Christ today. Seek what you most desire in Him not in the world. Ask Him to show you His glory....who He is in beauty and love and mercy for you. Let Him show you your own sin and failures so that you can rest in His grace and compassion. Let Him become the center piece of your earthly, everyday life. Then you will experience His presence and the surpassing greatness of His glorious power.

2 Corinthians 4:5-7 ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;