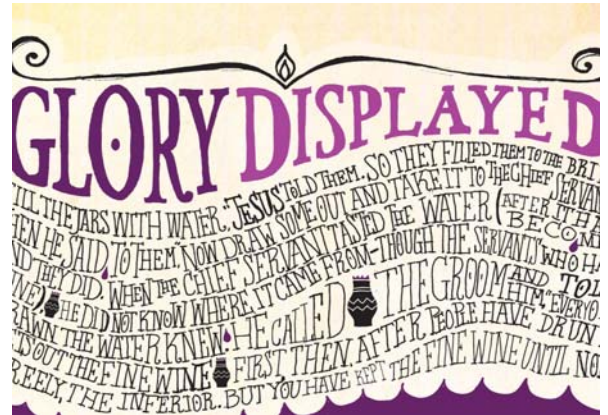


Preaching and Teaching
Week of September 26th through October 2nd, 2011
Text: John 1:14, 18; 2:1-11

Outline of Focal Passage:

1. Understand the Mission of Jesus (John 2:1-5)
2. Experience the Power of Jesus (John 2:6-10)
3. See the Glory of Jesus (John 2:11; 1:14,18)



1. Understanding the Mission of Jesus

a. This is the *first miracle* and it was performed in the *village of Cana*.

i. What's the importance with this being the "first" miracle?

ii. Where is the Village of Cana? How far from Nazareth? _____ Jerusalem? _____

b. Jesus, His disciples and His mother are invited to the wedding. What does that tell you about who invited them? _____

c. They've run out of wine. Now what?

i. Jewish wedding celebrations in Jesus day could last for a whole week.

ii. This was a big strain on the groom's family.

iii. What's more, nothing would bring more embarrassment and shame then for the host family to run out of refreshments before the celebration ended.

d. Mary to the rescue – maybe!

i. Evidently, Mary was more than just a guest at the wedding, otherwise, why would she have gotten involved? _____

ii. She knew of the shame her friends would have to endure. So...she turned to Jesus.

iii. Why do you think she did that?

iv. How do you hear Jesus' response? Short? Curt? Mary may well have understood that Jesus could

help, but in this moment of crisis she completely missed why Jesus came into the world. So, Jesus had to remind Mary that His work had to be done in a way that accomplished His mission. He would only perform a miracle if it pointed to His role as the Messiah. Jesus would make wine, but providing that wine would have to accomplish an eternal purpose, like singling Him out as God's One and Only Son who had come to offer the gift of salvation to all people.

v. Jesus hints at this saying: "My hour had not yet come." What do you make of that?

- **John 12:23** "But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified."
- **John 12:27** "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour."
- **John 17:1** "Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You."

For Jesus, the hour was that pivotal time in history when He would face the cross. Jesus would provide wine at a wedding celebration but only if it would be in keeping with the fulfillment of His mission.

e. Mary's Faith: "Do whatever He tells you..." Mary's example of simple trust in Jesus helps us in our walk with Him. Like her, we demonstrate our trust in Him by bringing our needs to Him with the assurance that He will address them in ways that will bring glory to Him.

What is the right attitude to have when taking a need to God in prayer? Mark **C** (for correct) or **I** (incorrect).

___ God has bigger things to worry about than my individual problems.

___ God's glory should be my priority.

___ God owes me! He promised that I will have no difficulties if I am a Christian.

___ God knows what is best for me.

2. Experience the Power of Jesus

a. Fill the six water pots of stone – for purification – each containing 20-30 gallons.

i. What is the difference between "clay pots" and "stone pots?"

ii. Jewish purification was very important. Why? _____

- Mark 7:3 “For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders.”

iii. How many gallons of water did all six pots hold? _____

b. Draw some of the water out and take it to the master of the feast.

i. Master of the Feast – probably the person responsible for making sure the guests enjoyed themselves.

ii. First the good wine first. Why? _____

iii. Saved the best wine for last. Why? _____

iv. Who knew of Jesus miracle at this point? _____ Why is that important?

c. What was the purpose of this miracle of Jesus?

i. The miracle symbolized the difference between the lifeless religion of the Jews and a vibrant relationship with Jesus.

ii. The banquet with no more wine represented the spiritual emptiness of the people of Israel, while the wine Jesus provided symbolized the fresh joy and undefiled blessing that came with knowing and following Him.

iii. Devotion to Christ would turn a dead religion into a new life that’s full of true joy and lasting fulfillment.

iv. If He has the power to turn water into wine, we can count on Him to have what’s necessary to turn our sorrow into joy as we serve Him.

Complete the following phrases:

Because Jesus can turn water into wine, the ordinary into the extra-ordinary, I know He can turn ...

My fear into _____.

My loneliness into _____.

My sorrow into _____.

My sinfulness into _____.

My death into _____.

3. See the Glory of Jesus

a. This was Jesus' **first sign** and it displayed His glory.

i. The Gospel of John never uses the word miracle, but rather the word "sign." Why?

ii. John records only seven miraculous signs of Jesus in his Gospel. Why?

b. Jesus disciples believed in Him.

i. Until now, the disciples accepted Jesus to be the Messiah, based on the word of John the Baptist:

- John 1:35-37 "The next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked (by), he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" Two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus."
- John 1:40-41 "One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him (Jesus), was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ)."

ii. However, the disciples' faith still needed to grow, and that's why John calls this miracle a sign. It points to who Jesus is and points to the disciples and their need for a Savior.

iii. Like the disciples, we too have plenty of room to grow in our faith and trust in Jesus. When we recognize who Jesus is in our lives, we grow in our love for Him and our willingness to serve Him.

c. Beholding Jesus' glory is not enough! But to behold the glory of "**the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth,**" wow!

i. How did God the Father create everything? _____

ii. To speak, what does one have to use? _____

iii. John says that Word at creation was God. And that Word at creation became flesh.

- John 1:14 "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Is this a WOW or what?