

“Breakthrough!” in 2022

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 05.29.2022

WHEN THE WINE RUNS OUT – JOHN 2:1-11

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us ...The backdrop for this story is a wedding celebration that Jesus and his mother and his six disciples went to. We like weddings, but it’s weird for us to picture Jesus going to a wedding. I mean this is one of the first things He did after gathering His disciples. Didn’t they have more important things to do? Wasn’t His time limited? Surely their time would have been better spent studying the Bible or praying in the Temple? Why would Jesus take precious time from His packed schedule to attend a wedding with His disciples? Verse 2 provides us with the answer. It says they went because ‘they were invited...’ Jesus wasn’t a recluse or a hermit. He was the kind of guy that people wanted to have at their parties. That’s telling. He was holy, but He wasn’t holier than thou. He was the Almighty, but He didn’t act all high and mighty. Nobody wants to have a stick in the mud at their wedding. I think a lot of people have this perception of Jesus like He was always very stoic and serious. You see this depicted in most of the paintings that you see of Him. He always seems to have a serious, and somewhat withdrawn look in his eyes. I don’t know that those pictures are a very good representation of who Jesus was. I want to see a painting of Jesus doubled over in laughter. That would be a great painting. I bring this up because I think a lot of people have rejected Christianity because they think that to become a Christian, you must give up fun. Such people equate holiness with boringness. It’s time to set the record straight. There is no commandment that states, ‘Thou shalt not have fun.’ If anything, Christians should be having the most fun. Let’s get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most or spoke to you from Pastor Daniel’s message this last weekend?
2. What is the funniest thing that has happened to you at a wedding or wedding reception?
3. If you went to a party, and things were not going well, would you tend to step in and help, or would you sit back and leave it to others?

One thing we don’t always understand is that Jesus appreciated many of the things we appreciate in life—including parties. He did not relegate Himself to the sidelines of life, nor did He limit His activities to “religious” gatherings. But what He did was to bring the Spirit of God to all of life. This is a significant part of what we see in John 2:1-11, the first of many miracles we will study together in this series.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 2:1-3

1. Imagine you are at a wedding and you find out the food’s run out before you can enjoy dinner. How would you react?
2. Why would running out of wine at a wedding be a problem?

In Jesus’ culture, weddings were a time of massive celebration and generosity. Running out of wine during a wedding would have been a major embarrassment to the bride and groom, as well as their families.

3. Why do you think Mary shared the problem with Jesus? What does this show about the nature of their relationship at this time with her?

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HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 2:4-5

1. What’s your reaction to Jesus calling Mary “woman”? What did He mean by this?
2. What did Mary tell the servants to do? Why is this so important for all of us?

When Jesus called Mary “Woman,” it seems rude to our ears, but it’s actually a title of respect. It would be like calling a woman today “ma’am” or “madam.” But even with this sign of respect, Jesus offered a very mild rebuke, saying, “My hour has not yet come.”

READ JOHN 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1.

1. Based on these verses, what was Jesus talking about when he said “my hour has not yet come”?

Throughout the book of John, the phrase “my hour” was meant to point forward to the events of His death and resurrection, the time of His victory over sin and death.

2. In your opinion, why would Jesus be reluctant to perform a miracle?
3. Have you ever been frustrated at the timing of Jesus? Has there been a time when you asked Him to intervene in a situation in your life and He responded that it wasn’t the right time?

Jesus was reluctant to perform the miracle because He knew the people’s misconceptions about the Messiah. They were expecting a military leader, a mighty warrior to overthrow the Romans and bring power and prosperity to Israel once again. Instead, Jesus came as a humble servant to die on the cross to pay for the sins of His people.

4. What do you have to believe about the nature and character of Jesus in order to accept His timing even when it’s not convenient for you?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 2:6-11

1. Read Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13-14; Jer. 31:12. According to these passages, what is wine a symbol of?
2. What kind of wine does Jesus make?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus made a better kind of wine?

Jesus was brought six jars which were used for purification rites, and from the water poured into them, He makes wine—not just good wine, but the best wine!

4. What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?
5. In what way is Jesus’ whole ministry about making something better than what the people previously had?

In Jesus’ first sign, He revealed Himself as the giver of great blessings. He gave the best wine, and in doing so, He multiplied the joy of the wedding feast exponentially. But Jesus isn’t content to give us temporal blessings. He didn’t come to give us abundant life only in the here and now. He came so we can enjoy eternal joy and blessing with Him as our Bridegroom and the Church as His bride! This is a new day when people are no longer bound to the old wine of the law; there is the new wine of Jesus.

6. Can you think of other times in Scripture when Jesus enjoyed being at parties? Is it strange for you to think of Him like that? Why?

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7. Can you share about a time when, because of the work and presence of Jesus, your joy was multiplied? When?

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Running out of wine at a wedding may not seem like a big deal to you, but in the ancient world, it was a very big deal. In Jesus’ time, weddings weren’t small affairs, they were extended community events. They didn’t just last for an evening like they do today. A person’s wedding lasted for an entire week. ‘Hospitality ruled the day, and families were under significant social pressure to provide lavishly for their guests.’ To run out of wine would be a serious offense. It was not only viewed as disgraceful, but it could also ruin the reputation of the family. The fact that they ran out of wine also speaks to us on another, deeper level. In the Bible, wine is often used as a symbol of joy. The joy ran out. That’s always the way things go in this world. The world’s joy always runs out. What are you running out of today? Are you out of joy, courage, patience, hope, strength?

1. Read verse 11 again. How did Jesus’ disciples respond to Jesus’ miracle? What prevents us from responding in the same way? In what ways do you find skepticism creeping into your heart?
2. How can we develop a greater sense of wonder over what Jesus has done?
3. Is there any part of your life right now in which you are struggling with the timing of Jesus? How does this passage encourage you?

PRAYER - Thank God for revealing Himself as the One who blesses His people. Praise Him for the joy we receive through Jesus. Ask that God would help you to regain a sense of wonder at all that Jesus has done.

“He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate, bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts.” {Psalm 104:14-15}