

Jesus is the Transformer

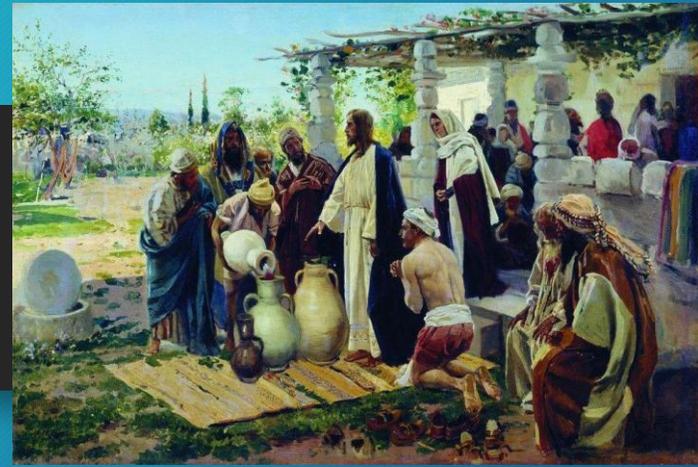
Lesson #3 John 2:1-11

The WORD and The LAMB (John 1)



- First, we learned that Jesus is the WORD (both the creator and savior, He took on flesh, and we must receive Him)
- Second, we also learned that Jesus is the LAMB
 - Jesus is the Passover Lamb of God (1 Cor. 5:7; Eph. 5:2; Heb. 10:1-14)
 - He takes away sins (1 Peter 1:2), not just covered them as in the OT (Exo. 12:1-14)
 - Propitiation—the holiness of God was satisfied and His wrath appeased by the atoning death of Christ (Rom 3:23-25)

The Wedding at Cana



- This was the first of 7 miracles that was mentioned concerning Jesus' public ministry (9 in total)
- Several notes: first, **wedding** in those days was a long affair, even up to 7 days, depended on the wealth of the family
- Cana is near where Jesus grew up, and the wedding is most likely on Mary's side of the family
- Calling His mother "woman" is not demeaning, it is actually an honorable title

- The wine was grape wine, mixed with 2 or 3 parts of water and one part of wine, therefore it was rather weak.
- Unmixed wine is called “strong drink” in the OT. (Prov. 20:1; 31:4) There was no alcohol distillation until much later
- Many Bible verse speaks to the danger of alcohol (Isa. 5:11-12; Eph. 5:18) Nevertheless, there is no commandment for abstinence in the Bible
- The main focus in the scripture for us not “given” to wine (Isa. 5:22; 1 Tim. 3:8) Therefore, the use of alcohol is a matter of conviction.
- In Jesus time, wine is mainly for flavor and for safety, therefore it is very fitting to serve wine in wedding in those days. (today’s culture hard to comprehend these 2 points)



In Christ there is



- On the other hand, wine is a symbol of joy (Psalm 104:15) and is consider a **blessing** from God (Deu. 7:13; 33:27-28).
- Nevertheless, such joy is **temporal and earthly** (Eccl. 10:19), and surely will not last. (like in this wedding)
- Nevertheless, only in the Lord there is **true joy** (Phil. 4:4)
- (Neh. 8:10) Such joy is based on who God is what He has promised us (Rom. 12:12; 5:2-3) which will never change or end
- Sadly, earthly joy just not the answer (i.e. hedonistic adaption)
- But how can we have this joy today in our lives?

Jesus is the Transformer



- In Jesus there is true **transformation** (Phil. 3:21). He wants to transform us to a joyful life like His (John 15:11)
- Beside transforming wine, He will transform us **completely** someday (Phil. 3:21), and even now He is transforming us to be more like Him day by day (Eph. 5:1; Matt. 5:48)
- Remember: we are Christ's "workmanship" (Eph. 2:10) and He likes to **finish** what He has started (Phil. 1:6)
- But **how** does Jesus transform us into His joyous life?

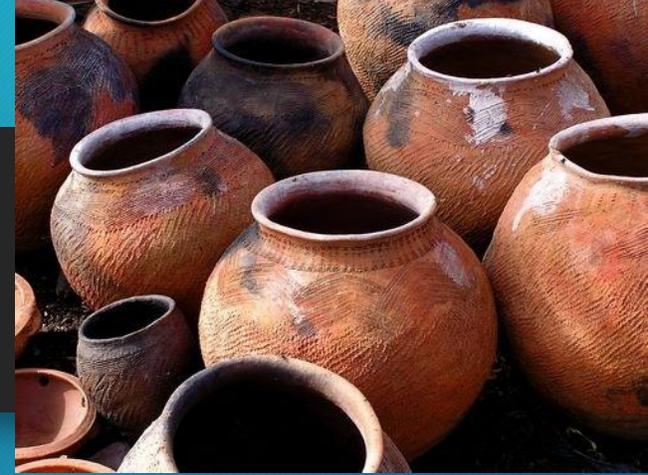
Faith and Transformation

3. The Lord used who believes in Him

- It is **faith** that lead to transformation (Phil 3:20-21)
- Mary has never seen Jesus perform a single miracle up to this point, but she believe nevertheless (v.5)
- Nor did the servant in the wedding (v.7-8), but they believe too
- Notice: having faith and being willing and available go hand in hand together (ill: coach or general)
- Finally, this faith comes with a challenge—the hardest part is to pour the wine



Conclusion



- Q&A: how can we have Jesus' enduring joy in our lives today?
- First, we must believe that Jesus can transform us
- Second, we must choose to be available to God and willing to obey Him
- Third, we take up the challenge to do what is impossible on our own strength, and rely on God to finish what has started
- And the outcome—JOY in seeing the goodness of God in our lives

Are you going to pick up your jars and pour them out?