

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Anger

579-01

### Getting Off in Buffalo

An important executive boarded a New York to Chicago train. He explained to the porter, "I'm a heavy sleeper, and I want you to be sure to wake me at 3:00 A.M. to get off at Buffalo. Regardless of what I say, get me up and get me off the train. I may resist you, but I have to get off at Buffalo."

But the next morning the executive awakened just as the train pulled into Chicago. He was infuriated, and with abusive language he poured out his anger on the porter.

As the executive stomped down the platform toward the station, another passenger asked the porter, "How could you stand there and take that kind of talk from that fellow?"

The porter replied, "That was nothing. You should have heard what the man I put off in Buffalo said!"

p. 13

Humor

579-02

### Just the Good News

A woman called her husband at work to talk. He explained that he was very busy and asked her if she could wait until he came home.

His wife said she just wanted to share some good news and bad news. The husband really was busy and needed to get off the phone. He told his wife just to tell him the good news.

She answered, "The air bags work fine."

pp. 15-16

Aging

579-03

Regarding my age . . . it's just that I have too much sand in the bottom of my hourglass.

p. 22

Marriage

579-04

**TOPIC:** Agreement

### Equal Opportunity Politics

A young couple were unable to resolve a heated argument. The husband finally proposed a truce by saying, "I'll tell you what: I'll admit that I'm wrong, if you'll admit that I'm right."

His wife agreed to his proposed terms, so the husband said, "I'm wrong."

The wife victoriously exclaimed, "You're right!"

p. 24

Ministries - 9 yrs. old.  
New Officers - Body - Soul  
Board - 9 on staff  
Tapes.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN  
SNAPSHOTS OF THE SAVIOUR  
Lecture Notes

Blackstone Judge  
'68-'72 Mac Pool  
Drez - "But Don"  
'73-'74 Wyatt's

John 20:31

"But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in his name."

INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

1. It was written by John, the apostle, the brother of James, both characterized by the title, Sons of Thunder. There are three words that characterize his life before he became a Christian: anger, ambition, and antagonism. *Convinced of who He was by the Fantastic Change in his own life.*
2. ① John wrote this Gospel as his first production under Divine inspiration, and then the Epistles, I, II, and III John, and then the book of Revelation last. The Gospel of John was probably written about 85-95 A.D.; the Epistles, 90-95 A. D.; and the Revelation, 95-96 A. D.
3. One of the things that is helpful is to see the Gospel of John in relationship to the other three Gospels. First, the Gospel of Matthew is presenting Jesus Christ as the Messiah to the Jews, Mark is presenting Jesus Christ as the perfect Servant to the Romans, and Luke is presenting Christ as the perfect Man to the Greeks. It is John's purpose in writing his Gospel to present Jesus Christ to everyone as the Son of God.
4. His whole purpose in writing the Gospel is seen in 20:31: "These have been written" for the purpose or in order "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in his name."
5. What witnesses does John include in his Gospel? First, we have the witness of John the Baptist in Chapters 1-3 and then we have the witness of his signs and works: a. The water to wine in Chapter 2, b. The nobleman's son in Chapter 4, c. The lame man healed in Chapter 5, d. The feeding of the five thousand in Chapter 6, e. Walking on the water in Chapter 6, f. Opening the eyes of the blind man in Chapter 9, and g. The resurrection of Lazarus in Chapter 11.
6. In the discourses of Christ, we also see His claims in the seven "I Am"'s that are recorded in this Gospel:
  - ① "I am the bread of life" Chapter 6:35
  - ② "I am the light of the world" Chapter 8:12
  - ③ "I am the door of the sheep" Chapter 10:7
  - ④ "I am the good shepherd" Chapter 10:11
  - ⑤ "I am the resurrection and the life" Chapter 11:25
  - ⑥ "I am the way" Chapter 14:6
  - ⑦ "I am the true vine" Chapter 15:1

7. The theme of the Gospel of John can be seen in the fact that the word "life" occurs 98 times and the word "believe" 36 times.
8. In endeavoring to outline the entire book, it can be broken down in the following way:
  - I. Teaching individuals Chapters 1-4
  - II. Teaching the multitude Chapters 5-12
  - III. Teaching the disciples Chapters 13-17
  - IV. Betrayal and Death Chapters 18-19
  - V. Resurrection Chapter 20
  - VI. His final words Chapter 21
9. The primary question that John wants to answer is stated in the following way: Is this despised one of Nazareth really God? You can kind of feel like you reach a climax in Chapter 8 when "If He is God, we will worship Him, and if not, we will stone Him."
10. In summarizing each of the chapters in the Gospel, we can see Christ being presented in the following way:
  - Chapter 1 Christ the Word
  - Chapter 2 Christ the Creator
  - Chapter 3 Christ the Saviour
  - Chapter 4 Christ the water of Life
  - Chapter 5 Christ the Judge
  - Chapter 6 Christ the bread of Life
  - Chapter 7 Christ the Heavenly One
  - Chapters 8 & 9 Christ the Light of the World
  - Chapter 10 Christ the Shepherd
  - Chapter 11 Christ the Resurrection
  - Chapter 12 Christ the center of Attraction
  - Chapter 13 Christ the Advocate
  - Chapter 14 Christ the Coming One
  - Chapter 15 Christ the Vine
  - Chapter 16 Christ the Preminent One
  - Chapter 17 Christ the Intercessor
  - Chapters 18 & 19 Christ the Obedient One
  - Chapter 20 Christ the Victorious One
  - Chapter 21 Christ the Chief Shepherd

11. It is going to be our purpose in this particular study to pursue the following outline. We are going to be looking at SNAPSHOTS OF THE SAVIOUR in John. There are eight of these snapshots that we are going to be looking at together. You will note on your materials that you have these eight sections divided for you.

Old Annuals

OUTLINE OF THE STUDY: SNAPSHOTS OF THE SAVIOUR

Our kids get out our wedding Pictures & old year books.

Snapshot Number One: The Wedding in Cana 2:1-11  
 Snapshot Number Two: The Conversation with Nicodemus 3:1-21  
 Snapshot Number Three: The Conversation with the Samaritan Woman 4:1-26  
 Snapshot Number Four: The Feeding of the Five Thousand 6:1-14  
 Snapshot Number Five: The Woman Caught in Sin 8:1-11

Snapshot Number Six: The Resurrection of Lazarus 11:17-44  
 Snapshot Number Seven: The Vine and the Branches 15:1-14  
 Snapshot Number Eight: The Restoration of Peter 21:1-17

12. It is our prayer that as we catch a glimpse of Jesus Christ in action through the Gospel of John, you will fall more deeply in love with Him and you will be more thoroughly convinced that He really is who He said He was, and that is the promised Messiah, the Saviour of the World.

In the first Chapter of John, the apostle makes a tremendous presentation of Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God. In the prologue of the first five verses, he speaks about the fact that Jesus Christ is eternal, Jesus Christ is God, and that it is in and through Him that all things were created. Then, in verse 14 of Chapter 1, we read "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt (or tabernacled) among us, and we beheld His Glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Two  
Purposes

- ① Don't Know Him. Phil. 3:10  
 ② Get to know Him better

Paul's New <sup>life</sup> years Resolutions

- ① that I might know Him
- ② Power of His Resurrection
- ③ Fellowship of His sufferings
- ④ attain the out- Resurrection - Ready at Rapture
- ⑤ not that I have already laid hold...  
not content with that achievement
- ⑥ Forgetting those things which at behind - Failure
- ⑦ In pressing on the upward way - Gaining New Ground.
- ⑧ Goal - like X.

SNAPSHOT NUMBER ONE  
THE WEDDING IN CANA  
2:1-11

Key Verse: 2:5 "Whatever He says to you, do it."

TEXT:

- v. 1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- v. 2 Jesus, also, was invited and his disciples to the marriage.
- v. 3 And when the wine failed, the mother of Jesus is saying to him, "They have no wine."
- v. 4 And Jesus is saying to her, "What is it to me and to you, woman, my hour has not yet come."
- v. 5 His mother is saying to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it."
- v. 6 Now there were six stoned water jars sitting there after the Jews manner of purifying holding about 18 to 27 gallons.
- v. 7 Jesus is saying to them, "Fill the water jars with water." And they filled them up to the top.
- v. 8 And he is saying to them, "Draw out now and carry it to the superintendent of the dining room"; and they carried it.
- v. 9 Now when the superintendent of the dining room tasted the water which had become wine and knew not from where it was, but the servants knew (the ones who had drawn the water), the superintendent of the dining room called the bridegroom.
- v.10 And is saying to him, "Every man first sets out good wine, and when they have drunk freely (then) the inferior, you have kept the good wine until now."
- v.11 This Jesus did as a beginning of his signs in Cana of Galilee and manifested his glory and his disciples believed on him.

EXPOSITION:

Erich Sauer in his book, The King of the Earth, points out the fact that the basic constituents of matter are everywhere the same. Whether it is mercury, gold or sulphur, carbon or oxygen, we are ultimately only concerned with protons, neutrons, and electrons. Which element it is depends only on their number.

If an atomic nucleus consists of seven protons and neutrons and is encircled by the same number of electrons, we call it nitrogen. If there are six, then it is carbon. If there are eighty, then it is mercury; if seventy-nine, then it is gold.

If the atomic nucleus gains or loses one or more protons or neutrons, then the element becomes another. Should we therefore succeed in shooting a proton out of the nucleus of a mercury atom, then the transmutation of mercury into gold has been accomplished. The physicist of today could, in fact, "make" gold.

This leads us to ask the question, if men in their laboratories, can change mercury into gold by bombarding an atomic nucleus, why should not God be able to change water into wine?

Taxes

In reply to your request to send a check, I wish to inform you that the present condition of my bank account makes it almost impossible.

My shattered financial conditions are due to federal laws, corporation laws, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, and outlaws.

Through these taxes I am compelled to pay a business tax, assessment tax, head tax, school tax, income tax, casket tax, food tax, furniture tax, sales tax, and excise tax. Even my brain is taxed.

I am required to get a business license, ~~a~~ car license, hunting license, fishing license, truck and auto license, not to mention marriage and dog license. I am also required to contribute to every society and organization which the genius of man is capable of bringing into life; to women's relief, unemployed relief, and gold digger's relief. Also to every hospital and charitable institution in the city, including the Red Cross, the Black Cross, the Purple Cross, and the Double Cross.

For my own safety, I am compelled to carry life insurance, liability insurance, burglar insurance, accident insurance, property insurance, business insurance, earthquake insurance, tornado insurance, unemployment insurance, old age insurance, and fire insurance.

My own business is so governed that it is no easy matter for me to find out who owns it. I am inspected, suspected, disrespected, rejected, dejected, and compelled until I prove an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need of the human race.

Simply because I refuse to donate something or another I am boycotted, talked about, lied about, held up, held down, and robbed until I am almost ruined. I can tell you honestly that except for a miracle that happened I could not enclose this check. The wolf that comes to my door nowadays just had pups in my kitchen. I sold them and here's the money.

Would like more business to pay more taxes.

Sincerely yours,

p. 314-15  
(33-37)

Tornado

A tourist traveling through western Kansas saw a man sitting by the ruins of a house that had been blown away.

"Was this your house, my friend?" he asked sympathetically.

"Yep."

"Any of your family blown away with the house?"

"Yep, wife and four kids."

"Great Scot, man, why aren't you hunting for them?"

"Well, stranger, I've been in this country quite a spell. The wind's due to change this afternoon. So I figure I might as well wait here till it brings 'em back."

p. 320  
(33-37)

### Grandparenting

As he leaves, his brother is coming up the walk with his two children in tow, Velcro Fingers and Terminator II. Within thirty seconds, they have taken the bathroom door off the hinges, clogged up the toilet with a shoe, put meal worm in the refrigerator for their hamster, which is in the middle of the coffee table, crayoned on the fireplace, flooded the patio, and sold me two chances on a pony.

My teenage granddaughter stops by to tell me she wants to move in with us where she'll have more freedom. Besides, my car isn't run often enough and she'll take care of that. It's okay with her mom if it's all right with me. She introduces me to her boyfriend who wears an earring and has a four-letter word on the bumper of his pickup truck.

The baby falls off the hobby horse. Velcro Fingers wants to know if he can keep the wax apple he has already taken a bite out of and Terminator II has drawn a picture of his hand on the wall behind the sofa.

p. 238  
(31-58)

### Grandparenting

"I now pronounce you man and wife."

With the possible exceptions of "We have lift-off" and

"This country is at war," there are few phrases as sobering.

pp. 4-5  
(31-51)

(31-58)

### Marriage

The setting was wonderful . . . a large room in a clubhouse that overlooked the Pacific Ocean. As we awaited the arrival of the bride, I looked at the waves that had rushed in with such excitement only to fizzle out and withdraw in a cloak of foam. They would try again.

The exercise was a lot like marriage. For centuries, couples in a rush of passion had joined hands, locked eyes, and optimistically promised to do impossible things for one another for the rest of their lives.

It seems like a lot of sameness day after day, year after year, but each time the waves roll in, they deposit new life, rearrange the beach and claim a piece of it before they retreat.

Our marriage had been like that.

Bill and I had forty-three years of high and low tides. On rare occasions, it was a day at the beach--smooth, sunny, calm, and uneventful. Other times, it was stormy and angry, churning up our lives in its wake.

Sometimes we crashed into the shore out of control. Other times we had to be returned to our familiar territory kicking and screaming.

p. 251  
(31-58)

Compassion

If I Can Stop  
One Heart from Breaking

Emily Dickinson

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) reminds us that acts of  
compassion add meaning to our lives.

If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain.

p. 147  
(34-13)

Marriage

### Silent Couple

→ This tale appears in different versions all over the world, ←  
from Sri Lanka to Scotland. This version warns us that  
pettiness can cause us to forget our obligations.

There was once a young man who was said to be the most  
pigheaded fellow in town, and a young woman who was said to  
be the most mule-headed maiden, and of course they somehow  
managed to fall in love and be married. After the wedding  
ceremony, they had a grand feast at their new house, which  
lasted all day.

Finally all the friends and relatives could eat no more,  
and one by one they went home. The bride and groom  
collapsed from exhaustion, and were just getting ready to  
take off their shoes and relax, when the husband noticed  
that the last guest to leave had failed to close the door.

"My dear," he said, "would you mind getting up and  
shutting the door? There's a draft coming in."

"Why should I shut it?" yawned the wife. "I've been on  
my feet all day, and I just sat down. You shut it."

"So that's the way it's going to be!" snapped the  
husband. "Just as soon as you get the ring on your finger,  
you turn into a lazy good-for-nothing!"

"How dare you!" shouted the bride. "We haven't even  
been married a day, and already you're calling me names and  
ordering me around! I should have known this is the kind of  
husband you'd turn out to be!"

"Nag, nag, nag," grumbled the husband. "Must I listen  
to your complaining forever?"

"And must I always listen to your carping and whining?"  
asked the wife.

They sat glaring at each other for a full five minutes.  
Then an idea popped into the bride's head.

"My dear," she said, "neither of us wants to shut the  
door, and both of us are tired of hearing the other's voice.  
So I propose a contest. The one who speaks first must get

up and close the door."

"It's the best idea I've heard all day," replied the husband. "Let us begin now."

So they made themselves comfortable, each on a chair, and sat face-to-face without saying a word.

They had been that way for about two hours when a couple of thieves with a cart passed by and saw the open door. They crept into the house, which seemed perfectly deserted, and began to steal everything they could lay their hands on. They took tables and chairs, pulled paintings off the walls, even rolled up carpets. But the newlyweds neither spoke nor moved.

"I can't believe this," thought the husband. "They'll take everything we own, and she won't make a sound."

"Why doesn't he call for help?" the wife asked herself. "Is he just going to sit there while they steal whatever they want?"

Eventually the thieves noticed the silent, motionless couple and, mistaking them for wax figures, stripped them of their jewelry, watches, and wallets. But neither husband nor wife uttered a sound.

The robbers hurried away with their loot, and the newlyweds sat through the night. At dawn a policeman walked by and, noticing the open door, stuck in his head to ask if everything was all right. But, of course, he couldn't get an answer out of the silent couple.

"Now, see here!" he yelled, "I'm an officer of the law! Who are you? Is this your house? What happened to all your furniture?" And still getting no response, he raised his hands to box the man's ears.

"Don't you dare!" cried the wife, jumping to her feet. "That's my new husband, and if you lay a finger on him, you'll have to answer to me!"

"I won!" yelled the husband, clapping his hands. "Now go and close the door."

pp. 215-16

(34-13)

Virtues

### The Duties of a Scout

→ Here are the rules every Boy Scout and Girl Scout promises to live by. Other than the Ten Commandments, it is hard to imagine a better list of virtuous aims for the young. ←

### The Boy Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

For our consideration in this particular study, SNAPSHOT NUMBER ONE, I have chosen the first sign or miracle recorded of Jesus Christ. It is recorded here in Chapter 2, verses 1-11.

In order to get the passage before us so that it might be more easily understood, I feel like the passage divides itself naturally into five sections. First of all, we have the setting for the miracle in verses 1 and 2, the need which precipitates the miracle in verses 3-5, the miracle itself in verses 6-8, in verses 9 and 10 we have the response to the miracle, and in verse 11 the results or the effect of the miracle upon those who were His followers.

Let's consider then together, first of all, the setting or the location for this miracle in verses 1 and 2.

Verse One: And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

First we want to note together that this miracle took place at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

This first verse tells us also about Mary the mother of Jesus being there. She must have been some friend of the family or possibly some relative. She was already at the house when Jesus arrived.

Marriage ceremonies during these days usually lasted about a week, and the bride and the groom were treated like kings. There was a lot of feasting that accompanied the wedding. All you could eat for... Oysters, Shrimp, Lobster, Steak, Salads, Desserts, Homemade bread, wine, Ice Tea, Coffee, milk or Pepsi. This was not a drunken brawl, but a very respectable wedding. The wine which they drank was two parts wine and three parts water, and drunkenness was a disgrace in those days, even as it is in our own.

I believe that it is significant that Mary is at the wedding and is a part of this first miracle, because it is at this time that Jesus is going to be cutting all of His home ties and entering upon the mission for which He came and that mission was to ultimately give His life upon the cross for our sins.

Verse Two: Jesus also was invited and His disciples to the marriage.

This young couple possibly could have been friends that they went to school with or part of the family. One thing you can be sure of that with this many guys at the wedding, they probably gave the groom fits. I'm sure they short-cheated his bed and put cheese in the air vents to make the first night a very special and memorable occasion. Stuffed the bathroom with balloons + hid a tape recorder in the closet.

I think it is significant to note that Jesus knew what it was to enter into the joy of a social occasion like this by his attendance at a wedding. He knew what it was to have a good time, to celebrate, and to enjoy the laughter and friendship of others.

**Happiest day of one's life!**

- 2:1-11 Wedding in Cana
- 1. Setting 1-2
- 2. Need 3-5
- 3. Miracle 6-8
- 4. Response 9-10
- 5. Results 11

- 3 Stages
- 1 Contract
- 2 Goes to Bed
- 3 Consummation
- Social event
- OF the Year!
- Union & Separation
- Church His
- Bride
- 1 Contract
- 2 Rapture
- 3 Marriage Supper

(I'm So Tired of Other People, I'm Dating Myself by Michael Nolan & Eve Sarrett) Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers. Copyright - Michael Nolan & Eve Sarrett, 1993. pp.184.

Can't Carl Your hair with holy rollers

- ✦ Busboys clear your table when you go to the bathroom.
- ✦ Forced off the skating floor during Grand March and Couples Skate.  
p. 25  
(33-19)

- ✦ These days many singles redirect their energies that might otherwise be spent on a mate to their employer. With this in mind, we offer these corporate wedding vows.

I, (name), take this job to be my lawfully wedded spouse. I promise to love, honor, cherish, and keep it, and to feel like this existence is confined unto me and me only. I promise to cleave to it, forsaking all others, including friends, family, and members of the opposite sex. I take this job to have and to hold me up from having a life apart from work, to cherish late at night and on most weekends. In spite of downscaling, restructuring, and takeovers, I will hang in there for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health till someone makes me a better offer.

pp. 30-31  
(33-19)

#### WAYS TO MOCK YOUR MARRIED FRIENDS

- ✦ Make a patchwork quilt of all the things you did together when you were both single.
- ✦ Tell them how much more comfortable and restful it is sleeping single in a double bed.
- ✦ Unexpectedly call the same-sex spouse, invite him/her to do something fun that would require immediate response, then say, "Oh, I forgot. You're married."
- ✦ Start fights between spouses by mentioning a previous relationship one of the spouses had before they got married.  
  
Plan a party exclusively for single people and mention to your couple friends how great it's going to be. Then add, "You probably wouldn't want to come because it's going to be all single people."
- ✦ Eat all your meals in restaurants, flaunting that you can afford such a luxury because you don't have to save for the education of future children.
- ✦ Slip in subliminal suggestions such as, "You're going to forget your anniversary."  
pp. 152-3  
(33-19)

I think it is also interesting for us to note that although Jesus is here witnessing the joy of this occasion, He knows that marriage is not part of the Father's plan for His life. He knows that he personally would never know the joy of fathering children, or having the companionship of a wife, or the refuge of a home in which to take rest. He might possibly be a best man but never a groom.

*Yeast II the Bride of X!*

*until eternity Church His Bride*

Jesus knows and understands the loneliness of the single life. He knew what it was to be at a wedding but never married.

*Single, Divorced, Widowed.*

For this couple they joined in marriage, this is a time of union and blessedness. For Jesus, it is a time of separation and of service.

In verses 3-5, we witness the request because of the crisis in the kitchen. There is an emergency stated in verse 3.

**II.**

*Setting 1-2*

Verse Three: And when the wine failed, the mother of Jesus is saying to him, "They have no wine."

Mary is back in the kitchen helping with the details, and she finds that they have run out of wine. *Pearl Running Out of Spag.*

Mary is following her normal custom of becoming dependent upon Jesus, especially since Joseph has died. So Mary comes and presents the need to Jesus. "They have no wine." *MARY - widow*

Mind you they have plenty of everything else, but there is something missing.

*Guy at U.T.  
① God shaped Vacuum  
② Fellowship*

How characteristic this is of humanity today. There are many who have everything as far as this world is concerned but there is something missing. They have no relationship. They have not yet been born again into God's family. Then, there are those who as Christians when they are honest can say that they have eternal life, and yet there is something missing. They have no fellowship. The joy of communion and companionship with the Father is something unknown to them.

Could it be that Mary had in her mind that Jesus might just perform a miracle in answer to her request? Thus, proving His Messiahship.

There is a certain analogy here to the request in John 11, of the sisters of Lazarus when the message is brought to Christ. "He whom thou lovest is sick." It is at least a request for assistance in this time of crisis.

Luke 2:19, "Mary was keeping all these things and pondering them in her heart. His miraculous birth, the ministry of John the Baptist, and now His disciples. Could it be that after thirty long years, she could be vindicated and the story of her virginity at His birth would be accepted. Perhaps Mary wanted glory through her son.

Needless to say, this is a very embarrassing situation for the bridegroom to be in. There was a Jewish saying that said, "Without wine there is no joy."

*★* Psalms 104:15, "And wine that makes glad the heart of man."

## II Cor. 9:7

Perhaps no stewardship issue has been so misunderstood among Christians as the subject of giving. The attitude of many churchgoers is clear (so clear some pastors steer a course around this subject to avoid the inevitable backlash): "You can say whatever you want about the state of my soul, but the moment you start messing with my wallet, I'm outta here!"

These brothers and sisters suffer from a disease called "cirrhosis of the giver," a malady discovered in 34 A.D. by a husband and wife team, named Ananias and Sapphira. This acute condition renders the patient's hand immobile when it is called upon to move toward wallet or purse en route to an offering plate.

pp. 171-2  
(35-30)

*The Victorious Christian Life*  
Macedonian Christians Tony Evans

Paul was amazed by this commitment. He said, "For I bear witness that according to their ability, yet, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints" (vv. 3,4). yes

No professional fundraisers were necessary. No begging, no lotteries, no bake sales, no gimmicks. These folks wanted to give so desperately, they begged Paul for the privilege.

When was the last time you saw someone in your church stand up and say, "Don't go any further; I can't stand it. I've gotta give now. Somebody bring me an offering plate!" Can't you just see your pastor's jaw hitting the floor in amazement at the sight of just one believer so tickled to death with the idea of giving?

p. 174  
(35-30)

# Ideal → Ordeal → New Deal

Take what looks good  
to you + pay for it later.  
Caterer is better than  
Ham - Rabbi - Married!

Ecclesiastes 10:19, "A feast is made for laughter and wine makes merry."

It goes to show you that there is nothing but trouble from the first day of marriage. I never knew what happiness was until I got married + then it was too late...

Wine in the scripture is a symbol of joy. It was because men had no wine. They had no strength within themselves to save themselves from the predicament in which they stood as sinners that Jesus was destined in Isaiah's words "to tread the wine press alone." Isaiah 63:3, "And pour out the wine of His own most precious blood, and as a result provide a means for a relationship that produces joy within the heart of the child of God." And so it is that one of the manifestations of a person who is in fellowship with the Father is likewise the wine of joy.

1 John 1:3, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you that you also may have fellowship with us, and our fellowship is with the Father and with His son, Jesus Christ." Then John goes on to say in verse 4, "And these things we write so that our joy may be made complete."

Verse Four: "And Jesus is saying to her, "What is it to me and to you, woman, my hour has not yet come."

Here is this very polite statement made by Jesus we have the separation of relationship. Whereas for the couple in this marriage, it is leaving home and cleaving to each other. So the Lord Jesus is leaving home and cleaving to the will of the Father, which will ultimately conclude in His own death upon the cross.

Genesis 2:24, "For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Even as the couple are leaving their separate homes and being joined to one another, so the Lord Jesus is leaving this home in which He has been reared, and He is joining Himself inseparably to performing the perfect will of His Father.

In Luke 2:51, we read of Jesus in His childhood that "he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them and his mother stored away all these things in her heart."

Hebrews 5:8, "Though He were a son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered."

If there had not been this change of relationship on this particular occasion, we probably would have heard from the lips of Jesus, "What do you want me to do about it, Mom?" It would have been words of submission and service to the desires of His mother. Now though, there is quite obviously a change in relationship as Jesus moves forth to accomplish the work to which He has been sent to perform.

The word "woman" is not a sarcastic remark, but simply a greeting of respect. It is a courteous way of addressing one even in tenderness. By using the term "woman," He was letting Mary understand that in the sphere of His ministry, He had now entered a new relationship with her and that her title of "mother" had no more part to play in this new work.

Foot of the Cross  
"Woman behold Your Son"  
"See behold Your Mother"

Time is over!!

Get off My Back, Woman.

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"What is it to me and to you?" For "what is there to me and to you?" It is a polite way of saying, "Leave me to myself, let me follow out my own course." He is now entering upon a new phase of His ministry. He is no longer dependent upon any way on the suggestion of a woman, even though that woman be His mother. The time of silent discipline and obedience is now over. Jesus finds Himself in a position of rejecting and influence which she presumes to exercise over Him. The Son had now also become Lord of His mother, who could secure her own happiness only by believing obedience to Him.

There are four recorded conversations between Mary and Christ to help us to understand their relationship. Luke 2:49 "Why is it you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be in my Father's house?" "Behold, my brethren and sisters." "What have to do with thee, woman?" "Woman, behold thy son."

Jesus in this fourth verse also says, "My hour has not yet come." This phrase occurs frequently throughout the Gospel and refers to the time of His death.

AFRAID The hour is going come before they get married! <sup>Afterward</sup> HURRY!

One of the hardest things in life is to wait God's timing in things. Is this not the hardest lesson of the Christian life-to realize that our hour is not yet come? We listen to the advice of friends the threatening of the foe the pressure of circumstances. We think we must do something so like King Saul, we force ourselves and offer the sacrifice. We pray hurriedly, then throw ourselves into the work, only to discover when it is too late, that we have run without being sent, and have defeated our own object by making too much haste. "My soul, wait thou" is a good sermon to preach to ourselves, not a moment behind, but not a moment ahead, just ready for the moment at hand.

Saul & Sacrifice

Ps. 37:5  
Abraham & Sarah

Psalms 27:14, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thy heart. Wait I say on the Lord. Be still and know that I am God."

Delays Are Not Denials.

Habakkuk 2:3, "But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair for these things will surely come to pass; just be patient, they will not be overdue a single day."

Verse Five: His mother is saying to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it."

Her submission is reflected in her command.

Whatever HE... No longer whatever I... John 3:30

She passes the test of trust and faith here. She sees the new relationship, and in this new relationship she expects him to do something special.

Luke 1:38, "And Mary said, "'I am the Lord's servant and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said, come true." She is now giving this same bit of advice to these servants to be completely available to do whatever he says to do.

Ps. 3:11  
Dn How Time  
Step by Step

Mary knew to whom she could turn in the hour of her need. Although, His apparent refusal to intervene would have stopped many, Mary's persistent caused her to make this statement.

Mary realizes here that she has overstepped her bounds of authority, and now she leaves any action to be done resting with her son.

Oh, that we might learn the lesson here of utter and complete abandonment to His direction. Not telling Him, but His direction guiding us into the fulfillment of His perfect will.

Prov. 3:5-6  
We Always want to tell Him how to do it!!  
Many will say  
Dull of hearing

Contained in these words are the greatest secrets to life, I have chosen this as the key verse for this first study. How many there are today who are refusing to receive Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour from sin, and do not enjoy the experience of life eternal simply because they are unwilling to do what He asks them to do? "It is too simple; it is not intellectual enough." "Certainly, He wants more than this."

"How many frustrated Christians do I find who are not doing what He says simply because their ears have become dull of hearing? Their sins and iniquities have separated them from the Lord and they are not hearing that still, small voice saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it when you turn to the right hand and to the left" because they are out of fellowship with their heavenly Father.

We may not always understand what it is that He wants and why He is going about it in the way that He does, but His way is always the best. **↓ will lead to Super-Fulfillment & blessing**

### Jericho

The children of Israel did not think it was the proper way to capture Jericho by marching around it and blowing horns, but God rewarded their faith; and the city fell into their hands in just such a means.

### Namaan

Namaan, also experienced the reward to his faith finally when he dipped in the Jordan River seven times and cured of his leprosy.

32,000

Gideon - ① send home chickens 22,000 left. ② cup their hands 300 stem. 7000 ③ clay jars & Trumpets

### Gideon

Romans 4:20,21, it is said of Abraham that "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief but was strong in faith giving glory to God and being fully persuaded that what he has promised he was able also to perform."

He will Never do it the way you thought

We will note together here that the command which is given is totally unlimited. "Whatever he says to you, do it." All is left in the hands of Christ.

In verses 6-8, we have the record of the miracle.

Verse Six: Now there were six stoned water jars sitting there after the Jews manner of purifying holding about 18 to 27 gallons.

Variety of Snow Flakes

Tell Shing - Lay in snow & watched the Flakes

These stone jars were for washing before and after the meals.

Jesus came to do away with the old Jewish system of washing and to put in its place the new wine of the Gospel of His grace.

The fact that these water jars are empty would speak to us that the fact that the whole Jewish system of legal observance is empty as far as its capacity to provide the joy of eternal life.

The law could not change the water into wine, change death to life, change grief to joy, change bondage to freedom. However, if we allow Jesus Christ to come into our life, the change takes place. It will be like changing water into wine. He will fill our empty lives with Himself.

Verse Seven: Jesus is saying to them, "Fill the water jars with water." And they filled them up to the top.

It is interesting to note here how quick these servants are to carry out His command. They are completely submissive to His leading. They filled them up to the top in that they did the job in haste and they did it well.

Verse Eight: And he is saying to them, "Draw out now and carry it to the superintendent of the dining room"; and they carried it.

The superintendent of the dining room was not the master of ceremonies, but was the one who arranged the couches for eating and tasted all the food before it was served to see that it was the best. He was sort of the official taster, the manager of the whole food service operation.

Food Service

I am sure you can imagine what these poor servants were thinking. Filling empty water jars with water is one thing, but to take this water to the superintendent of the dining room was something else. I imagine they were thinking in their minds, "Oh, well, we just work here. Listen, boys, I have a plan. We will take it in there and we will get all set to run when the dining room superintendent has tasted the stuff." So they followed the instructions and carried it into the dining room.

In verses 9 and 10, we get the response to the miracle that has taken place.

Verse Nine: Now when the superintendent of the dining room tasted the water which had become wine and knew not from where it was, but the servants knew (the ones who had drawn the water), the superintendent of the dining room called the bridegroom.

Once the water which has been changed to wine is taken to the superintendent, he tastes it as it is his custom to do so, and then it says: "that he did not know where this wine had come from but the servants knew." It is interesting that there is a special relationship to the Lord Jesus that the servants had. They had a special joy of witnessing his work and so it is in our lives, we have the special joy of seeing Him do things that are so delightfully unexpected, as we are servants of the Lord. Trusting Him to supply all your needs . . .

The Supply For the Ministries !!

You can imagine the attitude of the servants standing there all <sup>hunched</sup> up, to really get chewed out and expecting any minute for the superintendent to spit the water all over the place, and then to get this completely different response.

These servants knew the source of the water, but not the power that had made the wine.

Are there not many today who are like these servants? They know the source of Christianity, but have never experienced its life-changing power for themselves personally.

There are so many who are on a daily basis in the presence of power, but they have never experienced it for themselves personally.

Since the wedding was at the bridegroom's home, the superintendent of the dining room does the normal thing. He calls the bridegroom.

Verse Ten: And is saying to him, "Every man first sets out good wine, and when they have drunk freely (then) the inferior, you have kept the good wine until now."

When the superintendent of the dining room calls the bridegroom, you can imagine the response of the servants one to another. "Well, here it comes, boys." And then the superintendent surprises everybody when he says to the bridegroom, "Every man first sets out good wine, and when they have drunk freely (then) the inferior, you have kept the good wine until now." I can imagine they are saying, "I don't get it. I don't understand." They probably rushed back and tasted it and said, "Sure enough, it is wine."

Then I am sure they begin talking to themselves saying, "Who is this man, anyway, who can change water into wine." *Love Ranger + Tonto.*

Mark 4

The disciples had the same reaction in Mark 4 when they said after the stormy sea had been calmed, "What manner of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

The common custom of the day is expressed here by the superintendent of the dining room in verse 10, "Every man first sets out good wine, and when they have drunk freely (then) the inferior." In other words, you put out the finest of wines first, and then that which is inferior when they have drunk freely of the good.

The thing that got the attention of the superintendent of the dining room is "You have kept the good wine until now."

Rem 12:2  
1 Tim 4:10  
2 Tim 2:2

The world with all of its allurements is ever in the business of giving the best first to entice and then the inferior. For instance, the world wants to give pleasures, riches, honor, and then poverty, disgrace, and ruin.

The Devil is ever in the business of giving his best first. Get high on drugs, then spend the rest of your life paying for it. Feasting with

## The Prize

The world scoffed at Paul, but he did not heed its scoffing. He had something the world had not; burning within him he had a love and zeal the world knew nothing about. And the love that Paul had for Jesus Christ! But, oh, the greater love the Lord Jesus had for Paul!

The hour had come. The way they used to behead them in those days was for the prisoner to bend his head, when a Roman soldier took a sword and cut it off. The hour had come, and I seem to see Paul, with a joyful countenance, bending his blessed head, as the soldier's sword comes down and sets his spirit free.

If our eyes could look as Elisha's looked, we might have seen him leap into a chariot of light like Elijah; we would have seen him go sweeping through limitless space.

Look at him yonder!

See! He is entering now the Eternal City of the glorified saints, the blissful abode of the Savior's redeemed. The prize he so long has sought is at hand. See the gates yonder; how they fly wide open. And he goes sweeping through the pearly gates, along the shining way, to the very throne of God, and Christ stands there and says, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of the Lord."

Just think of hearing the master say it! Will that not be enough for everything?

Oh, friends, your turn and mine will come by and by, if we are but faithful. Let us see that we do not lose the crown. Let us awake and put on the whole armor of God; let us press into the conflict; it is a glorious privilege, and to us too, as to the glorified of old, will come that blessed welcome from our glorified Lord: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

D. L. MOODY

Marriage Supper of the Lamb  
Get Your Name on the Guest List  
Set You a Place at His Table!

harlots and famine with the <sup>hogs</sup> swine. If you are living with the world as the limit of your vision, I exhort you to make the most of it, it is the best you will ever have. With Christ it is just the opposite. Christ says, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." He likens life to a race. "Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." He likens it to a battle. "Finally, my brother, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God." All of this issues for a crown. "I have fought a good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith; henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."

Ephesians 1:14, "The Spirit which is the earnest of our inheritance."

Heaven

What a joy it will be to stand in His presence one day and say to Him, "Lord, you have kept the best until now." *The Longer I Serve Him the Sweeter he grows. . .*

When a person begins to follow Jesus Christ and to live life the way He designed it, things continue to get better and better. Whereas, the person who wants to live according to the pattern of this world, things continue to get worse and worse.

The opinion of the official taster in this situation is "you have kept the good wine until now." Genesis 1:31, "And God saw all that He had made and behold, it was very good, and there was evening and there was morning the sixth day." *when God is responsible for putting something together its going to be the greatest. . . Do you believe that... then why not trust Him.*

We have witnessed together that the normal practice of Satan and sin is to give the best and it progressively gets worse. Whereas, when we follow the life of Jesus Christ, it is the glory and then the glory, it is the cross and then the cross, and then the crown. It is the suffering and then the satisfaction. It is the thorn, and then the throne.

Verse Eleven: This Jesus did as a beginning of his signs in Cana of Galilee and manifested his glory and his disciples believed on him.

A.

In this eleventh and final verse of Snapshot Number One we get the effect of this miracle which Jesus performed.

① It was a beginning of his signs declaring to the world who He was and what He had come to do. For Jesus, this first sign is a sign of separation from his earthly mother unto the will of heavenly Father.

② In this account, we have Jesus making a provision in an impossible situation. I am sure that Mary is still following the same procedure that we read of her in Luke 2:19, that "Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and often thought about them."

The miracle according to verse 11 did two things. First, it manifested His glory. Secondly, His disciples believed on Him.

The glory spoken of here is His Messianic glory, a token to reveal who He was, and secondly, "His disciples believed on Him."

They recognized who He was.

CONCLUSION: Would you not follow in simple faith in the steps of His disciples, and let the same Jesus <sup>come into</sup> have your heart and life, and "whatever He says unto you, do it?" Would you not let Him change the water of the ordinary into the wine of gladness and joy. "But to as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on His name."

Three on cross

1 There are a number of lessons from this passage for Christians as well. Jesus knows the loneliness of a single life. It was the FATHER's plan for Him to never know the joy of fathering children, having the companionship of a wife, or the refuge of a home.

2 Are you willing to say, "Lord, whatever you say, I'll do it." Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Subm.t to His Authority

3 Christ gives us the most precious things for nothing. All that we have in Him, given as a free gift. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow.

4 He makes a glorious thing out of the common. He will take that ordinary life of yours and pour His glory into it and make it something you never dreamed possible. He took a dum(b) fisherman named Peter and he shook the world with him.

5 He gives us as Christians according to His own time and not according to our ideas. His gifts are always on time and it is just enough to meet the need. Fulness of Time → Meet Your Needs.

6 He gives the best last. If you are enjoying your life with Him now, then I can say this with confidence-"You ain't seen nothing yet. Soon we shall be like him, for we shall see Him as He is." "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard"

There are three key statements that stand out:

1 "They have no wine." You have no real joy without Christ. You have absolutely nothing apart from Him.

2 "Whatever he says to you, do it." "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

3 "You have kept the best until now." First, to the cross for salvation, secondly, a commitment to Jesus Christ, and third, eternity. our inheritance.

For Life Abundant

Consummation

I Corinthians 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Today if you hear his voice...

Harden Not your hearts...

MIKE DITKA

Why Are You here?

What is God trying to say to you?

When Are You going to do something about it?



Prov. 3:5-6

(Standing Tall by Steve Farrar) Sisters, Oregon: Questar.  
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## Parenting

A number of years ago, Dr. Robert Schuller was on a whirlwind book promotion tour, visiting eight cities in four days. It was an exhausting schedule in addition to the normal duties that Dr. Schuller had on his shoulders as pastor of a large church. As he was going over his schedule with his secretary for his return home, she reminded him that he was scheduled to have lunch with the winner of a charity raffle. Tickets had been raffled for a lunch with Dr. Schuller. Schuller was suddenly sobered when he found out the winner of the raffle, for he happened to know that the \$500 the person bid to have lunch with him represented that person's entire life savings.

How did he know that?

The person who was willing to spend \$500 to have lunch with Dr. Schuller was his own teenage daughter.

Dr. Schuller obviously loves his family as much as any of us do. He graciously allowed Paul Harvey to tell this story in his column. It simply reminds us fathers that we can be so busy doing what is good, that we forget what is of real importance. So many of the things we believe are "caught" by our kids when they are "with" us.

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The Father Gave the GIFT OF His Son  
So You could sit AT His table  
throughout eternity!