



Scripture Story: John 2:1-11.

Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 15.

partying with Jesus



Photo by Alden Ho

flashlight

“Jesus did not begin His ministry by some great work before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem. At a household gathering in a little Galilean village His power was put forth to add to the joy of a wedding feast. Thus He showed His sympathy with men, and His desire to minister to their happiness. In the wilderness of temptation He Himself had drunk the cup of woe. He came forth to give to men the cup of blessing, by His benediction to hallow the relations of human life” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 144).

keytext

“This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.”

(John 2:11, NIV)

what do you think?

If Jesus showed up at a party with me and my friends,

I would

- invite Him to come in and have fun with us.
- ask Him to perform a miracle.
- stop the party and have a Bible study.
- start hiding things that I know He wouldn't approve of.
- leave quickly.
- ask Him to leave.

did you know?

At Jewish weddings, the bride is veiled and the groom checks to make sure it's really his bride under the veil, as a reminder of the story of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah in Genesis 29. The bride often circles the groom seven times to show that he is central to her thoughts and her life, and seven blessings are recited. These wedding customs developed over many years. We don't know how many of them go back to Bible times, so we can't know for sure what the wedding that Jesus attended at Cana with His mother and His disciples would have been like. We do know that it was an occasion for feasting and celebration, possibly lasting more than one day and involving family, friends, maybe even the whole community.

INTO THE STORY

“On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

“Dear woman, why do you involve me?’ Jesus replied. ‘My time has not yet come.’

“His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

“Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water’; so they filled them to the brim.

“Then he told them, ‘Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.’

“They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, ‘Every-one brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.’

“This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.”

(John 2:1-11, NIV)



OUT OF THE STORY

Why do you think Jesus chose to perform His first miracle at a wedding?

Jesus told Mary, “My time has not yet come.” What do you think He meant by this? Why do you think He went ahead and did the miracle anyway?

Why do you think Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them, even though at that point Jesus had said He wasn’t going to get involved? What does this suggest about the relationship between Mary and Jesus?

The Bible doesn’t record Jesus’ answer to the master of the banquet. What do you think Jesus might have said?

How did this miracle reveal Jesus’ glory?

punch lines

“John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners”!’” (Matthew 11:18, 19, NIV).

“The Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and “sinners”?’ Jesus answered them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance!’” (Luke 5:30-32, NIV).

“‘Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,’ Jesus told him, ‘you will never believe!’” (John 4:48, NIV).

“Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father” (John 10:37, 38, NIV).

other eyes

“If Christians are forbidden to enjoy the wine of the spirit they will turn to the wine of the flesh.”—A. W. Tozer, 20th-century Protestant preacher and author.

“Tonight, I’m as low as any man can go/I’m down and I can’t fall much farther/And once upon a time, You turned the water into wine/an’ now, on my knees, I’m turning to You, Father/Could You help me turn the wine back into water?”—Song lyric, “Wine Into Water,” by

T. Graham Brown.

Sabbath

Read the *Into the Word* section of the lesson and think about the questions that follow it. According to this Bible passage, what effect did this miracle have on Jesus' disciples?

Why do you think the disciples reacted this way? How would *you* have reacted if you had been there and seen Jesus do this?

What impact do miracles have on our faith? Have you ever seen a miracle? If so, how did it affect you? If not, do you think you need a miracle in order to really believe in Jesus?

Sunday

Look back at the *What Do You Think?* section of the lesson. Imagine Jesus coming in to a party where you are enjoying yourself with your friends. Would He join in the fun, or would He be unhappy with what was going on? How do you know? What does the story of the wedding feast tell you about how Jesus feels when people are celebrating and having fun?

Write a paragraph in which you describe what you think Jesus might do if He showed up at one of *your* parties.

Monday

Read this week's *Key Text*. It tells us that this first miracle helped build up the disciples' faith in Jesus. Look in John 4, Luke 4 and 5, and Mark 1 to see what some of Jesus' other early miracles were. List five in the chart below, and for each one write what you think the disciples might have thought after seeing it.

Miracle	What the Disciples Thought

Tuesday

Read the *Flashlight* section. This passage contrasts the suffering Jesus went through when He was being tempted in the wilderness (see Matthew 4 or Luke 4) with the joy and happiness that He brought to others when He performed His first miracle at the wedding feast.

Why do you think that going through a difficult time Himself made Jesus able to bring joy and blessings to others?

How could you use a difficult time in your life to help and bless other people?

Wednesday

The first two texts in the *Punch Lines* section talk about how Jesus was criticized for going to parties and hanging out with sinners. Some people thought Jesus didn't take His mission seriously enough—they were angry that He enjoyed eating and drinking and being with people.

Jesus performed His first miracle at a party—not to save a life, but to help people have a good time. What do you think this tells us:

about Jesus? _____

about His mission on earth? _____

about the kind of miracles He could do?

Thursday

Some people think God doesn't want us to have a good time, that He disapproves when people are having fun. Jesus' life—especially the miracle at Cana—shows how untrue this is. It's true that some things that go on at parties are definitely not God's will. But Jesus enjoyed a good time. He celebrated life with His disciples and friends. And He enjoys watching us celebrate in healthy, positive ways too.

Think of an activity that you and some friends—or perhaps you and your Sabbath School class—can plan to help demonstrate the fact that God likes to see His people having a good time together. After you brainstorm some ideas, discuss them with a friend.

Friday

Jesus' miracle of turning the water into wine suggests that He can take ordinary things in our lives and transform them into something special. What needs to be transformed in your life today? How can you ask Jesus to turn your "water" into "wine"?

*A special adaptation of *The Desire of Ages* has been created just for you by the White Estate and the Pacific Press Publishing Association. Get more info about it at: www.cornerstoneconnections.net.

this week's reading*

The Desire of Ages, chapter 15.

*By following this plan you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.