

Jesus Christ: Breaking Into Your World

John 2:1-11

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Jesus Will Meet You Right Where You Live

In John 1 we saw John the Baptist, Jesus and His first disciples in a wilderness setting. We were inundated with deep theological truths about the identity of Jesus Christ: a list of names and titles that reveal the truth about who Jesus is. But in John 2 the scene dramatically changes. Here we find Jesus and His disciples at a wedding. A young couple is getting married and they have invited Jesus and His disciples to join the festivities. Talk about two contrasting pictures! In one chapter we are presented with wilderness intensity, including mysterious promises like...“you will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man” (John 1:51). Then, suddenly, we are transported to a joyous celebration as a young couple begins their life journey together. And this is where Jesus will perform the very first miracle of His ministry. All of this is by design.

Having read through chapter 1, we have high expectations. We can't wait to see what Christ is going to do. We want to see heaven opened and God doing incredible things. But we don't expect a wedding. This is the power of the Gospel of John. We learn right from the beginning this amazing lesson—Jesus will meet you right where you live. Jesus intends to break into your world. To experience Jesus you aren't going to have to go to some special place in the wilderness. You aren't going to have to go to some special religious service or engage in some esoteric ritual. Jesus is going to come into the details of your real life experience. Jesus, who is God the eternal Word, the Creator of all things, the Word made flesh, the Lamb of God: He makes house calls. He cares about every detail of our lives. He cares about our relationships, and our marriages and families. This is good news. This is the Gospel.

Jesus Shows Up With Wine?

Everything about this incident speaks to the power of the Gospel to impact our lives. When our resources run dry, Jesus intervenes. Wine is a symbol of joy and the blessing of God. When the wine of human planning and human effort come up short, Jesus breaks in with the power and grace of God in abundance. Not only that, Jesus refuses to be confined to the limitations of religious ritual or procedure. The water pots He used were designated for ritual purification according to Jewish religious practice. But Jesus takes that sterile and empty religious format and replaces it with the power and life of the living God. Joy overflowing! Grace upon grace!

First Miracle – A Sign of So Much More

This first miracle is literally called a “sign” in the text. A sign is more than a miracle. A sign points beyond itself to something more. This first miracle points to a greater truth. It points to the ultimate hour of “glory” in the Gospel of John, which is the Cross of Christ, along with power of the resurrection. This sign calls for us to believe in Jesus as the risen Savior. But what should we believe? We should believe that Jesus will break into the daily details of our own lives. Believe that when our own resources for life fall short, Jesus will come to us with the wine of His love, grace and power. Believe that He will meet us right where we live— not just in church or in special rituals or on special days. He is ready to break into our lives with His love and power everywhere and at all times. We must watch for Him carefully or we might miss His transforming work. Only a few people at this wedding actually knew that this miracle had taken place. Most of the people missed it. Are you watching? Jesus is at work in our world and in our lives. Not only that, His glory will be on display in the Gospel of John more and more. But we must watch carefully and prayerfully so that we see it clearly and respond to it in faith. This week, let's each watch and pray, expecting to see Jesus in the Gospel and in our lives.

Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

This week, as you read through and meditate on John 2:1-11, allow the following questions to guide your prayer and journaling...

What are some of the mundane details or situations in your life today where you would least expect Jesus to show up or even to intervene?

Why have you assumed that Jesus would not be interested in those aspects of your life?

In the account of the wedding at Cana, Jesus not only shows up to the wedding, He brings with Him a very powerful expression of the blessings, resources and provision of God. In what situations in your life have your resources run out? Have you brought that to Jesus Christ today? How do the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ speak to these situations?