

It's Not Really a Party Until Jesus Shows Up

John 2:1-12

Bethany Assembly of God

9/22/2023

Central Proposition: You should believe Jesus for renewal.

Introduction

This is the third message in our series through the Gospel of John called "Life in His Name." We're digging into the first of several "signs" in the Gospel of John. Jesus did this first sign at a party, a wedding. The miracles John records always reveal something deeper about Jesus and His purpose on earth. See John 2:1-11. The sign that this passage gives is that Jesus came to make the things that had been broken by sin new. Let's take a closer look at what that means.

1. You can have a relationship rather than rituals.

In John 2, we read about a wedding where they ran out of wine. In an honor and shame culture, to run out of wine would have been considered shameful to the family and the new couple. It would have cast doubt on their future and their place in the community. So, it was no small thing.

- While Jesus will end up solving this problem, He doesn't do it for His mother nor for the reason she wanted Him to do it. As D. A. Carson put it, "In short, in 2:3 Mary approaches Jesus as his mother, and is reproached; in 2:5, she responds as a believer, and her faith is honored." Mary's relationship with Jesus ultimately came down to trusting Him, just like yours and mine.
- With this miracle, Jesus was claiming to come and bring blessing and renewal to what had become empty and dry. If your worship has become mere ritual, the good news of Jesus is that He has come to renew you.

2. You can receive true joy.

God promised that there would come a day when all of the suffering His people were enduring would stop. Marriage is a symbol of that promised time of blessing. See Isaiah 62:5; Hosea 2:19-20; Revelation 19:9.

- By turning water into wine, Jesus was claiming to be the One who will bring about this marriage between God and His people. This sign says that God's blessing, peace, justice, and joy are all provided by Jesus.

3. You can have hope that the best is yet to come.

See John 2:10. What the master of the feast said is not just a passing comment, it's an indication of how God does things and what Jesus was there to do. When John recorded the words of the master of the feast, he was not remarking on the wine, but on the character of God revealed through Jesus. With Jesus, the best is always ahead and that means we always have hope. See Revelation 21:4-5. In heaven, God will provide a place that is always new, in which we are never despondent or in despair. We will never exhaust His creativity, love, and goodness. There will always be more. The best will always be ahead of us.

Conclusion

You should believe Jesus for renewal, not just now, but when you go home, and when you're in private prayer, and when you face trials. It's not really a party until Jesus shows up. Thankfully, He has and by faith, we know that He is here now, with His Church by the presence of His Spirit.