

Message #7

Series on John: "Believe"

C.R. 2-24-19

"When the Wine Runs Out"

Text: John 2: 1-12

Intro: I am amazed at how many times I have heard this passage through the years used in the wrong context. For some reason people want to use this passage as a license to drink. Surely we are wise enough to know that Jesus did not do this miracle to give people an excuse for drunkenness. No doubt there are a lot of opinions about what exactly this drink was, and again that is not going to be the focus of this morning's message. In my study on this passage I saw some other things in this passage that we help us a great deal more than the topic of Alcohol. I believe in this building today and across the internet and when people hear this on T.V. and radio and the wine of gladness has run out. So what do you do when the wine runs out? Let's take a look.

1) The Invitation to the Wedding. (V. 1-2)

- a. It is quite interesting to note that the first time that the curtains parted and the Glory of God would peak through would be at a wedding.
- b. He not only was invited to this wedding but he went.
- c. Adrian Rogers said that the fact that this miracle of Jesus happened at a happy occasion tells us He came that we might have abounding joy.
- d. Weddings were great celebrations. Week long events.
- e. Marriage is God's idea. His creation. And he was invited to this one
- f. How about yours. Is he invited to yours? Is he apart of your marriage? Your dating?
- g. Is he a part of your home?
- h. For many this morning the wine has run out because the most important one has not been invited in for quite some time.
- i. If he was the creator of marriage then He certainly knows what makes it operate best.

2) The Situation at the Wedding. (v. 3)

- a. Mary said it plain. "they are out of wine".
- b. Explain what went on at weddings during this time. The parade through the streets under a canopy. The week-long celebration held at the couples home. People always present.
- c. It was the groom's responsibility to make sure that this event went on without a problem.
- d. You were really looked down on and could be sued by the bride's family if this did not go according to plan.
- e. Yet in this case, running out of wine was more than simply running out of a food choice. In that culture and time, to run out of wine was considered the height of rudeness. It

would cause the newlyweds such humiliation that they would never be able to lift their heads in public again. It could conceivably open up the bridegroom to a lawsuit by the bride's family. And at the very least, it would ensure a tension-filled, rocky start to their relationship, as the bridegroom would lose respect in the eyes of his bride. This was a marriage in trouble almost from the moment it began.

- f. **The fact is that the wine run out because the supply is insufficient.**
- g. What is your supply right now? Good money. Kids. Big home. Vacations. Family in tact.
- h. We must understand that any source that is not Jesus is insufficient. The wine will run out. You can't make enough money. The kids will leave home. That big home will be empty. You can see all the world and vacation every 3 weeks and still the wine will run out. Family members will pass, and the wine will run out.
- i. I have had it run out on me, and as a Pastor I have watched it run out in so many lives.
- j. I have seen some of you when the wine of gladness was filling you up and your sufficiency was in Jesus. But the pull of the world and the changing of times has caused you to start looking in other places.
- k. Sure you still show up from time to time but the faithfulness is not what it was. The time with God is not what it was. And the Wine has run out. You can see it in your eyes and on your face. That walk with the Lord is just not what it was.

3) The Transformation at the Wedding. (v.4-9)

- a. V.4 our Lord did not tell Mary that he would not work a miracle; but he would have her know that she must not expect him to do mighty works to please his relatives after the flesh.
- b. Note the symbolism here. Jesus had 6 earthen vessels filled with water.
- c. Earthen water jars symbolized man with religion yet without reality.
- d. He told these servants what to do with it, and they did. This is the secret to it all.
- e. Whatever he says to do, do it.
- f. Can you imagine when they drew that water out of the pot and handed it to the governor of the feast. The transformation of just plain water into the best tasting wine they had had.
- g. This is what Jesus does. He is in the transformation business. Making worthless water into sparkling wine.
- h. From the outside I'm just an old earthen vessel. Nothing special. But you dip from the inside and Jesus is involved I am not useless water but sparkling wine.
- i. This is not a work that can be done by us. We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds.
- j. Jesus told these servants to obey. When we offer him our instant full obedience he does an amazing transforming work in us.

4) The Celebration at the Wedding. (v. 10-11)

- a. The governor makes a tremendous statement here. He states that most weddings serve the best they have at the front end, and then the cheapest stuff at the end. ‘
- b. But in this miracle the best was saved for last.
- c. **Adrian Rogers** “The Devil gives the best first and the worst last, but the Lord saves the best for last”.
- d. When we put Jesus where He is supposed to be, and we obey Him and walk with Him it gets sweeter by the day.
- e. The wine is not meant to run out. He came that you joy may be full. In His presence there is the fullness of joy.
- f. **Psa 92:12** The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- g. **Psa 92:13** Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.
- h. **Psa 92:14** They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;
- i. If your wine has ran out it is not His fault. It is yours.
- j. I pray that as I get older that I will notice that the wine of gladness is increasing as I go.