

## SERMON OUTLINE

<b>SERMON TITLE:</b>	Jesus Is God's Answer to Man's Disappointment
<b>SERMON REFERENCE:</b>	John 2:1-11
<b>LWF SERMON NUMBER:</b>	#5703

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is so much talk in the world today about miracles that is false and not rooted in the Word of God but in New Age mysticism.
  - i) It is a sin to attribute to Satan the work of the Holy Ghost.
  - ii) It is also a sin to attribute to the Holy Ghost the work of Satan.
- b) There is, however, the great wonderful world and realm of the miraculous.
- c) The greatest miracle is the transformation of a soul.
- d) John 2:1-11
  - i) This was the first miracle in a parade of miracles in the Gospel of John.
- e) John mentions seven miracles.
  - i) They are more than miracles.
    - (1) The word to describe them is a word that is translated "sign".
    - (2) They are miracles with a message or signs with a significance.
- f) God clearly tells us the purpose of these signs.
  - i) John 20:30-31
- g) We are to believe in miracles, but trust in Jesus.
- h) The greatest of miracles is the transformation of a life or the new birth.
- i) In today's message, we will learn about the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine and that Jesus is God's answer to man's disappointment.

2) THE SETTING OF THIS MIRACLE (JOHN 2:1-2)

- a) The first miracle that Jesus did took place at a wedding.
  - i) It was a happy occasion.
  - ii) It is tragic that Jesus is not invited to more weddings today.
- b) Jesus attended both weddings and funerals.
  - i) Jesus never broke up a feast, but he often broke up a funeral.
- c) Jesus lived a life of great joy.
  - i) The miracle that He did at this wedding tells us that Jesus is not a cosmic killjoy.
  - ii) Jesus came that we might have abounding joy.
    - (1) The cross is a plus mark; it is not a negative.
  - iii) Jesus came that we might have an incredibly bright, beautiful, and joyful life.
- d) The Bible doesn't tell us the names of the bride and groom.
  - i) Had the Bible told us the names, then that would have meant that they were significant people.
  - ii) Evidently, they were very common people whose names were not well known.
    - (1) Jesus loves people like we are.
      - (a) Jesus loves ordinary people.
- e) Jesus is involved in everyday issues.
  - i) Here was the Lord of Glory taking care of the refreshments at a party.

- (1) This tells us that Jesus Christ wants to be with us on a Thursday morning in the office just as much as He wants to be with us on a Sunday morning at church.
  - ii) Jesus is interested in everyone, every day, and every circumstance.
  - f) Jesus' presence at that wedding turned what could have been a disaster into something delightful.
    - i) Jesus has a way of turning the monotonous into the momentous.
    - ii) Jesus takes care of the little things.
  - g) One of the most beautiful pictures in the Bible is not only Jesus turning water into wine, but Jesus also preparing breakfast for the disciples.
    - i) He is the Lord who cares about those things that concern us.
  - h) At this wedding, the Lord of Glory took care of the mundane and brought joy and happiness because He is indeed a joyful person.
- 3) THE SYMBOLISM OF THIS MIRACLE (JOHN 2:6-10)
- a) Wine in the Bible is a symbol of joy.
    - i) Psalm 104:15
      - (1) God speaks here of oil, bread, and wine as that which give joy and strength.
    - ii) The Bible warns against intoxicating wine.
      - (1) Proverbs 23:31-32
        - (a) If there is a time when it is fermented, then there is a time when it is not fermented.
        - (b) God calls unfermented grape juice wine.
        - (c) "That which moves itself aright" speaks of that which is fermented.
        - (d) The joy and the refreshment that Jesus gives does not have a serpent in it.
    - iii) This was pure wine; it was not polluted wine.
      - (1) Intoxication is Satan's substitute for Jesus' joy.
    - iv) Do not think that people in that day did not know how to preserve grape juice without it fermenting.
      - (1) A noted scholar has said that people of this day made a beverage, something like apple cider, by checking the fermentation.
        - (a) It was often used instead of water.
        - (b) The technical name for it is "must."
  - b) What do the six waterpots symbolize?
    - i) Six is the number of a man.
      - (1) The Bible teaches this in the book of the Revelation.
    - ii) These were earthen water jars made of clay, just as man was made from the dust of the Earth.
      - (1) They are a picture of mankind.
    - iii) They were filled with water after the purification rituals of the Jewish people.
      - (1) John 2:6

- (2) They were there for ritual cleansing.
- (3) Mark 7:1-6
  - (a) The Jewish people of this day would wash their hands nine times to the elbows and let the water drip off their elbows before they would eat.
    - (i) The idea was not sanitation but ceremony.
    - (ii) The elders would not eat with unwashed hands.
  - (b) In this passage, “unwashed hands” does not mean that their hands were not clean, but that they had not gone through the ceremony of the washing of the hands.
- iv) The waterpots represented the traditional religion of the people.
  - (1) They were cold, stone pots filled with ritualism representing man with religion, yet without reality.
- c) Jesus told the servants to fill the waterpots to the brim.
  - i) John 2:7
  - ii) Why to the brim?
    - (1) Because Jesus came to fulfill the law.
      - (a) Matthew 5:17
      - (b) Not one jot nor one tittle did Jesus fail to fulfill.
      - (c) All of the righteousness that the law required was fulfilled in the Lord Jesus.
    - (2) Jesus fulfilled it to the full.
- d) John 2:8
  - i) The governor of the feast was the master of ceremonies.
  - ii) Where did they draw the water from?
    - (1) They didn't draw the water from the six waterpots.
      - (a) They were filled to the brim.
    - (2) They drew the water now from the well.
      - (a) The well that had filled the waterpots was the same well that would have its water changed into wine.
    - (3) Jesus was fulfilling the old, and He was bringing the new.
      - (a) The six waterpots were no longer needed because now they had the well.
      - (b) We now have Jesus.
        - (i) John 10:10
      - (c) The wine at the beginning of the feast was their best, but it was inferior.
        - (i) Not only was it inferior, but it was also limited.
      - (d) Jesus is the well of joy, marked not only by quality but marked also by endless quantity.
- e) At the wedding there was enough wine to spare.
  - i) Our Lord gave a graphic illustration of John 10:10.
    - (1) The life that Jesus gives is abundant life.
      - (a) There was more than enough wine for the wedding.

- (b) When Jesus fed the five thousand, there were twelve basketfuls left over.
    - (c) When the prodigal son returned to the father's house, he said that his father had bread enough to spare.
      - (i) Luke 15:17
  - f) When our Lord saves us, He does more than deliver us from Hell.
    - i) He gives us life abundant and free.
  - g) The Bible says that He doesn't merely pardon our sin, but He abundantly pardons.
    - i) If you had mistreated someone, asked them to forgive you, and they said, "That is alright, I forgive you," then that is a pardon.
    - ii) But if they take you into their arms, embrace you, and begin to lavish love upon you, then that is an abundant pardon.
      - (1) That is the kind of pardon we have in the Lord.
  - h) Not only does the Lord abundantly pardon, but He gives abundant provision.
    - i) As the wine was abundant, the Lord abundantly blesses us.
    - ii) Jesus came that we might have life abundantly.
      - (1) John 10:10
      - iii) Ephesians 3:20
      - iv) That is the symbolism of the wine.
        - (1) Jesus takes our stony hearts and vessels of clay that are filled with meaningless ritual and religion, He fulfills it all, and He gives Himself as the well of joy to each of us.
- 4) THE SECRET OF THIS MIRACLE (JOHN 2:3-5)
- a) This is the best advice that anybody ever gave anyone upon the face of the Earth.
    - i) If Jesus tells you to do something, then do it.
      - (1) This is the secret of a miracle.
  - b) Why should we obey the Lord Jesus Christ?
    - i) We should obey for our good.
      - (1) John 2:7-9
        - (a) If you want to be on the inside spiritually, then become a servant.
        - (b) The servants knew things that the master of the feast did not know.
          - (i) They knew because servants have a way of being on the inside.
      - (2) Amos 3:7
        - (a) Servants know secrets.
      - (3) Servants know things that other people do not know.
        - (a) Household servants know things about you that your neighbors do not know.
      - (4) John 15:15
        - (a) This is what Jesus said to those who served Him.
        - (b) Servants have a way of becoming friends.
      - (5) The secret of a miracle is to obey Jesus.

- (a) Whatever He says to do, we should do it.
- ii) We should obey for their gladness.
  - (1) When the servants obeyed the Lord Jesus, everyone at the feast was blessed.
    - (a) Their obedience was not only for their good, but it was also for the gladness of others.
    - (2) Others are made glad when we obey the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - (3) When the Lord does a miracle, He generally does it through someone else.
      - (a) The Lord could have, without any human hands and without any human help, performed that miracle.
        - (i) But He told the servants to fill the water jars.
        - (b) When the Lord Jesus was ready to raise Lazarus from the grave, He told the servants to roll away the stone.
        - (c) God does His miracles through human instrumentality.
- iii) We should obey for His glory.
  - (1) The Bible teaches that when this miracle was done, Jesus' glory was manifested.
    - (a) John 2:11
    - (2) His glory was manifested when a miracle was done.
      - (a) The miracle speaks symbolically of the salvation that Jesus gives.
    - (3) His glory was manifested when people obeyed Him.
      - (a) Obedience to Him gives Him glory.
      - (b) Luke 6:46
        - (i) What right do we have to say that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior if we do not obey Him?
      - (c) When we obey Him, we give Him glory.
        - (i) This is what we exist for.
      - (d) Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do.
        - (i) John 2:5
        - (e) Luke 5:4-5
          - (i) What does "nevertheless" in this passage refer to?
            1. They had fished all night and taken nothing.
            2. Simon Peter was a commercial fisherman.
              - a. He knew, humanly speaking, that it would do no good to cast out the net.
              - b. But he said, "Nevertheless, at Thy word I will."
                - i. Let this become the motto for your life.
  - (4) We do not have to understand the command of God to obey that command.
    - (a) Don't parade it past the judgment bar of your reasoning to see if it makes sense or not.
    - (b) It may not make sense.
      - (i) Filling those water jars did not make sense.

(ii) Throwing the net out on the other side of the boat did not make sense.

1. Except, it made sense to Jesus.

#### 5) THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MIRACLE

- a) Jesus is in the transformation business.
  - i) He transformed worthless water into sparkling wine.
  - ii) He is transforming people.
    - (1) Someone wisely said the following:
      - (a) Nature forms us.
      - (b) Sin deforms us.
      - (c) Education informs us.
      - (d) Penitentiaries reform us.
      - (e) But Jesus transforms us.
- b) Jesus transformed Simon Peter, a blustering fisherman, into the flaming apostle of Pentecost.
- c) Jesus transformed the Apostle John.
  - i) The Apostle John had a hair-trigger temper.
    - (1) His nickname was "The Son of Thunder".
  - ii) He became the apostle of love.
- d) Jesus transformed Matthew, a tax collector, into the Matthew who wrote the Gospel of Matthew.
- e) Jesus transformed Mary, a demon-possessed harlot, into a herald of the resurrection.
- f) The One who turned water into wine is the One who can change radically, dramatically, and eternally, any heart that will come to Him.

#### 6) THE SEQUEL TO THIS MIRACLE (JOHN 2:1)

- a) This miracle has symbolic and prophetic significance.
- b) Why did the Holy Spirit say it was the third day?
  - i) This passage contains some symbolism and a hint of prophecy.
  - ii) Since Jesus began these miracles, there has already been two days of human history.
    - (1) 2 Peter 3:8
    - (2) Two thousand years have passed (two days are gone), and we are on the threshold of the third day.
- c) This wedding typifies and prefigures another wedding that is coming.
  - i) That is the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- d) John 2:9-10
  - i) With Jesus, life is always getting better and better.
    - (1) Jesus gives the best last.
- e) Satan gives the best first.
  - i) Proverbs 20:17
  - ii) That is the way it is with life.

- (1) We start out in life as a child with the joy and wonder of childhood.
- (2) Then as a youth, there is the vision and the enthusiasm of youth.
- (3) In manhood, there is the strength of manhood.
- (4) In middle age, we get into the battle of life and the weariness of age.
  - (a) Things begin to deteriorate and run downhill if we don't know the Lord.
    - (i) The devil does not have any happy old people.
      1. Without Jesus, it gets worse and worse.
- f) When Jesus did His first miracle, it was a manifestation of His glory.
- g) Soon, He is coming again.
  - i) Every pain and heartache we will ever know, we will know it this side of the grave or this side of His coming again.

## 7) CONCLUSION

- a) Jesus turned water into wine.
  - i) It was a miracle with the message that Jesus is in the transformation business.
    - (1) The miracles of grace are always greater than the miracles of glory.
- b) When Jesus turned water into wine, He did it with a word.
- c) When He saved your soul (if you are saved), He hung on a cross.
- d) The greatest miracle is the miracle of the new birth.
- e) John 20:30-31
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16