

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015-2016

THEME: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

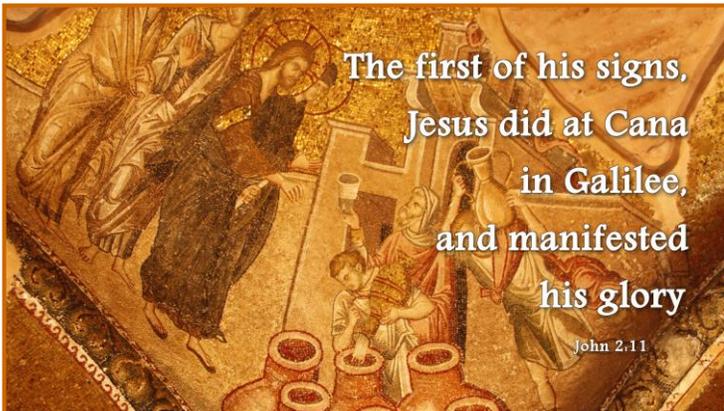
UNIT TWO – “Sharing Our Joys and Sorrows”

“A MIRACLE AT A MARRIAGE CEREMONY”

Sunday School Lesson No. VIII – January 24, 2016

Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Theme of the Book of John: John 20:31, “*But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*”



Lesson Text: John 2:1-12

Required Reading: John 2:1-12

Memory Texts: John 2:1-2, 11, “*And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage... This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.*”

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale); Libronix Electronic Library; The Jeremiah Study Bible and Resources; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible

INTRODUCTION

Some people think that the only place to be educated is in the formal setting of a classroom or at a computer screen. But contrary to these thoughts, the Christian can look backward and forward and note that where one walks in the presence of the Logos (Jesus Christ), God’s living word, every moment is a wonderful learning experience.

With this in mind, the account of John 2:1-12 takes us on a great learning experience to a town called Cana in the region of Galilee, which separates it from a town of the same name in Asher. This town was near Nazareth, the place where our Lord Jesus grew up. The event of our learning experience is a wedding and Mary the mother of Jesus was invited, as well as Jesus and his new disciples.

Weddings were very festive occasions in the ancient world even as they are today. The great affair was overseen by the bridegroom and his family. People locally as well as friends would travel great distances to attend the gala affair. It was a time of reunion and the uniting of two families. The average wedding celebration lasted about a week, including all its festivals. Great preparation was made and it was a wonderful affair, demonstrating the groom’s ability to take on the responsibility of providing for a wife and family.

According to Dr. David Jeremiah: “The bridegroom and his friends made their way to the bride’s home, often at night in the form of a torch light parade. At the bride’s home, often there would be speeches and expressions of good will, following which the bridegroom would take the bride to his home where the wedding feast would begin. It was a time of great celebration and joy for all who attended.”

My Anticipated Power Points presents “A Miracle at a Marriage Ceremony”: *Jesus Christ the Living Word...*

- **Is Concerned About the Total Man. John 2:1-2**
- **Works Within the Framework of the Father’s Will. John 2:3-5**
- **Has Sovereign Creative Authority. John 2:6-8**
- **Brings Joy out of Life’s Disappointments. John 2: 9-10**
- **Desires all People to Know Him as God’s Promised Messiah. John 2:11-12**

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Jesus Christ The Living Word is Concerned about the Total Man. John 2:1-2

When we open this great lesson, we find Jesus Christ and His newly chosen disciples accepting an invitation to a wedding in the village called Cana of Galilee. This wedding must have been important to this small community and perhaps relatives of Jesus must have been getting married. Why? Because Mary was there and seems to have been involved. Also, the fact that Jesus and His disciples were invited. Beloved, what is a marriage without the **Living Word** being invited to have a primary role in the home? Jesus not only wants to be invited into our home life, but into every facet of the total man. (Read Hebrews 13:4).

II. Jesus Christ The Living Word Works Within the Framework of the Father's Will. John 2:3-5

As the wedding feast continued we learn that the wine ran out. Now beloved, according to Dr. David Jeremiah, this was serious. An underestimating of the wine meant the celebration would have been cut short and "under Jewish law, a bridegroom's family could be sued for such an oversight." What to do? Mary came and expressed the dilemma to Jesus who expressed His authority in a few words and a great action: "**Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.**" John 2:4 (NKJV). Jesus was working on the Father's timetable. He respectfully expressed to Mary that He was not at her beck and call, but after presenting Himself at John's baptism (Matt.3), He must now be about the Father's business (Luke 2:49). "**...Mine hour is not yet come.**" What hour did Jesus the Living Word speak of? It was the time when He would be glorified as God's Messiah after His passion, resurrection, and exaltation. This hour is mentioned several times: (John 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1). Remember, Jesus was on heaven's time clock. John MacArthur describes Jesus' use of the word "**Woman**" as "not rude, but abrupt, putting distance between Jesus and Mary." He was now totally about the Father's business. Verse 5 expresses Mary's understanding of Jesus' statement by her response: "**Whatsoever He saith unto you do it.**" Thus we hear the final recorded spoken words of Mary in the scriptures. And she points all servants of Christ to totally adhere and obey the word of the Living Word, Jesus Christ!

III. Jesus Christ The Living Word Has Sovereign Creative Authority. John 2:6-8

Jesus no doubt having the Father's permission, commissions the servants to assist Him in performing a miracle. The (6) water pots held about 162 gallons of water, (a firkin estimates at 9 gallons). According to Matthew 15:2 it was part of the "Elders Tradition of the Talmud, a strict set of oral and traditional rites and laws." Now after the obedience of the servants in filling the pots to the brim with water from the large pots for purification, they carried them to the "**caterer**" of the feast, and a great miracle occurred! As the servants dipped the water from the jars and served it to the caterer, the water was miraculously transformed into wine. Jesus has demonstrated His Sovereign Creative Authority! (Read John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-18; Hebrews 1:1-2). Remember, only when we are submerged in the Lord Jesus do we become new creatures (II Cor. 5:17).

IV. Jesus Christ The Living Word Brings Joy out of Life's Disappointments. John 2:9-10

Jesus' miracle saved the reputation of the bridegroom and astonished the caterer, as well as demonstrated that His wine was not like that of men. He brought **joy** out of disappointment. (Read John 10:10; 15:11). Beloved, have you filled your life with the joy of the Lord? (Read Ephesians 5:18). Nehemiah 8:10 declares, "**...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**"

V. Jesus Christ The Living Word Desires All People To Know Him as God's Promised Messiah. John 2:11-12

According to John 20:30-31, the miracles of Jesus were essentially signs. And this miracle had results: (1) It revealed Jesus' glory (splendor, majesty and grandeur); (2) It caused His newly selected disciples to strengthen their faith in Him. After the event, He moved into other places and shared the blessings of His kingdom.

CLOSING

Beloved, in reviewing the points of the lesson, what have you learned from the Living WORD at the Wedding today? Thank God for the Living Word's Incarnation that paid the price for our Salvation. Today He is ready to make a Reservation for all who by faith will receive His living Invitation!

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TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead:

January 31, 2016

John 11:38-44

Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!

