

Sunday 18.02.2024

**FROM RELIGION INTO
A RELATIONSHIP - Part 1**

JOHN 2:1-11 NIV

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

Introduction: Jesus was still In Galilee, where he had met Philip and Nathaniel (*1:43-45*). It was the third day (*2:1*) after he had left for Galilee (*2:2*). He and his disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana (*2:2*). Also at the wedding was Mary, his mother (*2:1*).

Now John does not tell us whose wedding this was, the bridegroom may well have been a relative of Jesus, given the concern Mary showed when there was a shortage of wine, but we cannot be certain of this.

What we know is that the act in Cana of Galilee was the first miraculous signs of Jesus, that also marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

According to John, this miraculous sign had two results(2:11).

a) Jesus revealed his Glory.

b) His disciples believed in Him.

Jesus was no longer just the son of Mary, he was also the glorious Saviour, the object of faith.

After Jesus revealed His glory, the religious people were opposed to him. They resisted him on the basis of their traditions and beliefs, finding especial security that they were the children of Abraham (*John 8:33*) and the disciples of Moses (*John 8:5*).

Jesus offering the new wine, demonstrated his superiority over the traditions of the Jews and all those who promoted them. John's desire was to see all the Jews rise beyond the religious activities and embrace a new relationship with Jesus Christ, not as just the son of Mary but the son of God.

The question is, how do we rise beyond these religious rules and activities into a relationship with Christ?

1) **Obedience to his word.**

a) Jesus' mother told the servants this, "Do whatever he tells you." (*verse 5*).

b) At Cana, the servants obeyed the word to fill the jars. (*verse 7*)

James emphasized this when he said
“Do not merely listen to the word, and
so deceive yourselves. Do what it
says....(*James 1:22-24*).

2) Demonstrating our dependence on Him.

Mary demonstrated this by informing Jesus that “They have no more wine” (*verse 3b*).

a) Jesus reminded his disciples,

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

(John 16:24)

b) Prayer in many ways shows our dependency. He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.” (*Matthew 21:13, Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11, Mark 11:17*)

3) True worship:

We are not told how the bridegroom responded, but it is reasonable to imagine that the master of ceremonies and the bridegroom later discovered that was Jesus who saved the day, I want to believe that they worshiped Him.

You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. (Matthew 15:7-9).

Conclusion:

God never intended His people to have a dead, dull religion; He wants His people to have a vibrant, active relationship with Him. Our journey with God was never intended to be based on empty rules, man's opinion, or a check list of perfection,

...but on the atoning love sacrifice made for us at Calvary. Having a personal relationship with Christ means, we know we can never do anything to truly make ourselves right before Him.