

Home Group Leader's Notes

John 2:1-11

Week of January 24, 2021

**NOTES TO LEADERS: WHY THE LONG INTRODUCTION?** So much is covered in the first chapter of John; I don't want anyone to miss it. This series began in December and we have had a lot of busyness since then.

**LEARN ABOUT GOD'S GOODNESS AND PLANS**

Read John 2:1-11. This is where Jesus begins His public ministry. Read through the passage and consider the following questions.

What's the story? (Who, where, what)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus and his disciples attended a wedding in Cana (Nathanael's home). While there, Jesus' mother, Mary, asks Him to do something because the wine has run out of supply. (This would be an embarrassment for the groom.) Jesus responds in an unusual way, sort of why ask me and expressing concern for the "hour." He then asks that pots normally used for ritual cleansing be filled with water. He then miraculously changes the water into wine. This gets served. The author, John, notes that this is the first of Jesus' "signs" and that the disciples believed.**

If Jesus is using this time to introduce a theme in His ministry, what might that theme be? (Cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus is ushering in something new. Wine flows with abundance and replaces water that was to be used for cleansing. As we walk through this book, the motif of "new" will recur.**

John, the author, often used Jewish institutions and festivals to teach on who He is or what He brings. How might a wedding serve as one such occasion?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Marriage was the first institution from God. For them, a wedding was a reason to celebrate a new union, oneness in relationship. Jesus was beginning his public ministry. A wedding being the first institution is a natural occasion for the first "sign."**

**A wedding is also the picture of Jesus and His bride, the church. This is what God intends for us – to be one with Him forever. (See Revelation 21:3)**

Jesus' response to his mother ("Woman") can sound curt or like a minor rebuke. What reasons does Jesus' offer? How does this fit this occasion and perhaps connect with other times the author's use of the word "hour" or "time in 12:23?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus has not yet gone public with miracles. Jesus sort of rebuffs His mother for asking Him to do something that might be public. In this book (John) Jesus regularly refers to an "hour." God has a masterplan of when things need to happen, and Jesus is going to follow that plan. The critical focus is on the "hour" of Jesus' glorification through the cross and resurrection.**

How do we see faith in Jesus' mother?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Though Mary heard Jesus' response, she then asked others to follow His lead.**

What might be the significance of the pots (6) and them being filled to the brim (7)?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus is replacing the old system of cleansing with His work. Some believe that pots being filled to the brim is a symbol of the abundance Jesus' grace. Others point out that in the Old Testament, the time of the Messiah would cause wine to flow from the mountains. (Amos 9)**

Some have said that replacing water with wine in a ceremonial pot for cleansing is "a clue to one of the meanings of the story." (D. A. Carson, "The Gospel According To John," p. 173) What meaning might it have had to the early church?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus is replacing the old covenant with one of grace through His death, burial, and resurrection. (see above)**

What happened that John identifies as a "sign?" (11) Who was the primary audience for this?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus performed a miracle which becomes a sign to those who see the deeper meaning. The point of the miracle was to say something about the miracle worker. They were to begin to see the truth of Jesus identity and mission. (The first chapter summarized this identity.)**

Why might a "sign" call up faith (i.e., in the disciples and us)? How does this connect with John's purpose statement in 20:30-31?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of signs is to call up "belief," seeing who Jesus is and putting one's full confidence and trust in Him. The result of belief is followership, discipleship.**

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

When did you first hear about Jesus doing the miraculous? What affect did it have?

Not everyone who saw Jesus' miracles responded the same. How might these "signs" affect us? What might they mean in our lives?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Some are skeptical and don't believe the miracle is real. Others are only happy about the gift and not the giver. Still others see, consider what it means, and deepen in their belief.**

Todd mentioned the lyrics of a song: "I get amnesia, I keep forgetting your goodness and your power displayed in my life" (David Crowder). What helps us see God's goodness and power in our lives?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: It is so easy to forget what God has done in the past. How we respond to tomorrow's troubles is determined by seeing the truth about who God is (His character and His ways) and trusting that He is always good.**

There is a danger of becoming complacent – 'I've heard it before.' Here are a few ideas from Scripture and from friends: (1) Read and reread the stories, learning more each time. They told the stories repeatedly. (2) Share your stories with others. This helps us all keep our eyes on what God is doing. (3) Keep a record / journal of what God has done and then reread this. Lastly, (4) Jesus tells us to be on "watch" for what God is doing and we will see that He is always working.

Shepherds, I pray that the glory of Jesus will fill your hearts.

Steve