



**OASIS: SHARE JOY
DONE IN SYNC WITH
OUR "SHARE THIS" SERIES**
The Passage – John 2:1-12

Preface: Welcome to our LC Bible study in our new sermon series "Share This: Encountering Jesus Encountering Others." These LC studies will complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading and not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation).

Study's BIG Idea: Jesus changes the water to wine to proclaim the Kingdom themes of life and joy.

Opening Question/Transition:

Describe the most memorable wedding reception you been a part of.

Have you ever been to a wedding (or a large scale event) that ran out of food or drink?

Of all the things Jesus could have done at a wedding reception, every wonder why He chose to change the water to wine? What would have been a better miracle?

John 2:1-12 (NIV © 2011)

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

O – How does Jesus respond to His mother’s report that the hosts have run out of wine?

I – Why do you think Jesus responds with, “Woman, why do you involve me?”

(At first look and with our English understanding, he could appear annoyed. However, the use of “Woman” is not used in a derogatory way, but is actually used respectfully as in “Ma’am.” This is consistent with how Jesus addresses women: Woman of Samaria, 4:21; woman caught in adultery, 8:10; his mother at the cross, 19:26; and Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, 20:15. Still Jesus’ response is abrupt.)

I – What do you think Jesus means when he says, “My hour has not yet come?”

(No one really knows. Options include Jesus humbly telling his mother that his “personal hour” has not come but “his Kingdom hour has.” Another thought is in the use of the word “hour” which can also be metaphorical to refer to “eschatological fulfillment,” i.e., John using the line to illustrate “theological purposes.”)

O – Either John does not tell us what Jesus said next or Mary knew her son because she is neither offended nor convinced. What does she tell the servants?

I – There are a number of symbols to be considered.

- First, John tells us that these events happened on the “third day” of the wedding – a clear resurrection foreshadow.
- Second is the significance of the Jewish wedding itself. When Jews thought about the arrival of the coming Messiah, they imagined the announcement to be in a communal week-long banquet for the entire town and a wedding banquet is perfect.
- Third is the significance of the ceremonial water jugs. Each one could hold 120 gallons of water. Jesus used these jugs not only because of their capacity but to symbolically replace the old ceremonial cleansing laws with something better.
- Lastly, in John 6, Jesus is going to provide “bread” for everyone. Here he provides the second element of the communal sacrament – the wine – a symbol of life, as well as a symbol of joy.
- What do you think John is telling us in these symbols?

I – Who is the “master of the banquet?”

(Hard to know for certain, but it was common for the bridal family to select a trusted family friend to run the weeklong celebration so the wedding families could enjoy their children and guests.)

I – No one is healed at this wedding nor is anyone saved. Why do you think Jesus chose to perform this miracle (in fact, Jesus likely contributed to some guests’ drunkenness)?

(Not only to save embarrassment for the family of the wedding but to offer people life and joy and further, to allow this scene to serve as a foreshadowing of these Kingdom themes.)

A – What can we learn and apply from Jesus’ first miracle of joy and life?

Key: O – Observation. I – Interpretation. A – Application

- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single night.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
- b. Complement OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- e. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- f. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.