

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Sep 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #3: Calling People to Believe

INTRODUCTION

What makes an event miraculous or supernatural to some and not to others?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: this is the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. It seems to bring out his passion for living and endorses human emotion such as the joy of a wedding. The capacity of the filled jars was approximately 150 gallons, enough for 2,400 servings. Weddings typically lasted 3 or more days. Jesus mother Mary was probably a relative of the bride or groom so Jesus was accompanying her and the disciples were "extras". Running out of wine was more than a minor social embarrassment since the family had an obligation to provide a feast of the socially required standard. Notice also that faith led to action, not just intellectual understanding.

Read John 2:1-11

1. Where did the wedding take place? Who attended? Vv 1-2
2. What is the significance (to his ministry and spiritually) of a wedding as the setting for Jesus first miracle and the beginning of his public ministry?
3. What was Mary's request? Vs. 3 Why did she feel she needed to ask Jesus?
Note: It was necessary to have a large amount of water for ceremonial cleansing (hand washing). Water was precious in this desert environment and wine even more so.
4. What was Jesus' response? Vs. 4 Was He disrespectful?
5. Her response? Vs 5 She implied it was wise to do what Jesus said. What did this say about Mary's faith?
6. Do you think she was pushing Him to proclaim who she knew He was? Why or why not?
7. What happened to the water? Vs 9
8. Why was this a miracle? What does this make Jesus the lord of? What difference does that make?
9. Since many people recognized that this was a miracle, did that make them believe Christ was their Lord or just make them believe that He could do miracles?
10. What does John say is the reason that Jesus performed this miracle? Vs 11 Joel 3:18, Amos 9:13
11. The servants didn't have to understand everything about Jesus, only do what he asked. What effect did this miracle have on them? Vs 11 On the disciples? On you?

APPLICATION

- Many people are motivated by miracles to believe in Jesus. What sign has Jesus given you to help you believe?

“May we not add that the symbolism of the wedding feast, and the joy which Jesus brought to the wedding hour suggested the Messianic symbolism of the Old Testament and the presence among men of whom John the Baptist call “The Bridegroom.” Thus in the beginning of “signs” the evangelist is producing testimony to prove that Jesus is both the Christ and the Son of God.”

Charles Erdman, The Gospel of John, p.29