



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon

BIBLE JOURNEYS – NT Volume 1 JESUS IS LORD

#5 TWO WEDDINGS



John 2:1-11; Revelation 19:1-9; Revelation 21:2-7

**JESUS CARED ABOUT THE WEDDING IN GALILEE
AND JESUS CARES ABOUT THOSE THINGS THAT I NEED
HE IS COMING SOON TO CALL US TO RISE UP IN THE AIR
MAY WE ALL BE READY TO MEET HIM THERE.**

Scripture Reading for Today

1 Peter 1:7-9 “That *the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

*⁸Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet **believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:***

⁹Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

2 Corinthians 4:7 “*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*”

1. INTRODUCTION: At a wedding in Cana, Jesus turned water into wine to preserve the honor of the father of the bride. Jesus fills empty vessels with the Living Water, and He is coming soon to take us to another wedding in Heaven where He will wipe away every tear, and fill us with joy in His presence forevermore.

ORDER OF SERVICE:

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|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah’s Ark with ‘Animals Go Marching Song’ | |
| 2. Children’s Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

2. JESUS ATTENDS A WEDDING IN CANA OF GALILEE.

Last week we studied how Jesus first began His ministry in the Fall of 26 AD when He came to John beside the Jordan river. It is now the third day since the LORD Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, and anointed of God's Holy Spirit. Jesus and his five new disciples, John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Bartholomew traveled for 2 days from Bethany beside the Jordan River, on up to Galilee, where they were invited to a wedding in Cana. It is possibly the home of one of Mary's relatives because Mary was invited, so Jesus' half brothers and sisters would also be there.

John 2:1-5 “And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: ²And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. ³And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. ⁴Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. ⁵His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.



Mary, passed along information from the servants to Jesus that the wine had run out, expecting him to do something. This was an intensely uncomfortable moment that could bring shame upon the bride's family, indicating that these most likely are Mary's relatives. In our culture a man using the term 'woman' to address his mother would be demeaning but this is a different culture, and we cannot read insult into this text since we know that Jesus never sinned. It is much more likely that Jesus was respectfully using 'woman' to His mother like a southern boy would say 'Ma'am', informing Mary, both that it was not time for His purpose as Savior to be revealed, and also that He was a man now, no longer under her instruction. In this moment of understanding for Mary, she honored Jesus as a man and honored His Lordship by deferring all authority to Him before the male servants and His disciples.

3. JESUS REPLACES DISHONOR WITH HONOR.

Normally water pots that had been set apart for the sacred purpose of holding ceremonial water would not be used for wine, but Jesus here was looking to the importance of saving the honor of the father of the bride who would be seen as a laughingstock, if it were known he had run out of wine for the seven-day wedding feast.

John 2:6 “And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.”

Though modern measures have increased the volume of the firkin, according to research of Ancient Weights and Measures by the Museum of Birmingham, 1 Firkin = 9 gallons. 2-3 firkins would be 18 to 27 gallons per water pot, so the total volume of water they had stored in those six water pots was 108 to 122 gallons.



The next question would be why would anyone have 122 gallons of water stored in their dining room? It was ‘After the manner of the Jews’, Jewish families stored water for purification; families would use water from these pots for the required washings before eating, or for ritual bathing if they had touched something unclean.

John 2:7-8 “Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.”

“The wine of the first century, though containing a degree of fermentation, did not have nearly the potency that modern wines possess. All the wine [of Bible times] was light wine, i.e., not fortified with extra alcohol. Concentrated alcohol was only known in the Middle Ages when the Arabs invented distillation (“alcohol” is an Arabic word) so what is now called liquor or strong drink (i.e., whiskey, gin, etc.) and the twenty per cent fortified wines were unknown in Bible times”.

R. Laird, Harris 1980. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Vol. 1. Chicago, IL: Moody

The fermenting process to preserve grape juice for drinking was to ferment the juice just enough to preserve it through the winter months until the grapes ripened again. The fine wine that Jesus made miraculously would have been familiar to the guests.

4. JESUS FILLS EMPTY VESSELS WITH LIVING WATER.



John 2:9-11 “When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, ¹⁰ And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. ¹¹ This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.”

The ruler and governor of the feast tasted a wine better than the best wine they had served! Jesus manifests His glory to us, by finding us when we are but empty vessels, cleansing us from sin, then He performs the miracle of filling us with the living water of His Holy Spirit! Then pours the living water of His Holy Spirit out through us as a fragrant bouquet of living water that brings life to others, when we believe on His name!

When trials of all kinds come our way, we can feel an emptiness. No matter where we are today, Jesus says, “Come to me and drink!”

John 7:37-38 “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

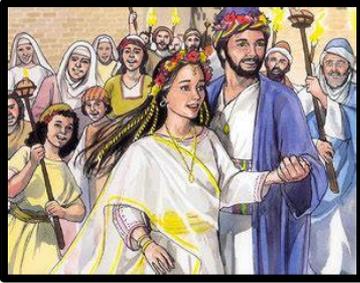
That is what Jesus told the woman at the well who felt so empty. Jesus knows every little thing about you and He says come and taste the water, drink, and keep drinking!

John 4:10 “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”

Through the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine, and through this woman, we see that Jesus wants us to know of His beautiful gift of living water and be filled. God has the power to turn our emptiness into fragrant fullness, and not just once but He will fill us again and again!

Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

5. JESUS IS COMING TO ANOTHER WEDDING WHERE YOU ARE INVITED!



Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

The bride of this marriage at Cana had kept herself pure for her husband, purified herself and clothed herself in garments of white, and then adorned herself with beautiful jewels for her husband. Jesus cleanses us by His blood shed for our sins, and He clothes us with His own robe of righteousness, then He adorns us with the precious gifts of His Holy Spirit. Jesus has given everything we need to be ready for His coming!



Revelation 21:2 “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

Jesus gives the picture of a bride at her wedding, to show us how He makes us beautiful through the gifts of His Spirit, until we all rise up together as His bride made beautiful for His coming!

1 John 3:2-3 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³And **every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**”

Do you see that? The bride purifies herself for her wedding, and we are to purify ourselves to meet Jesus, even as He is pure.

6. GOD RAISES HIS BRIDE TO LIFE BY HIS BREATH.

When do we go to Heaven? Many Christians believe they will rise up to Heaven at the moment of their death, but what need would they have for the wedding supper of the Lamb, if they are already there? The Bible does not anywhere speak of anyone already in Heaven with Jesus coming back to get their dead body! Man is alive by the life-breath of God.

Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

In the same way as God breathed His Spirit, the breath of life, into Adam and he became a living soul, when the Spirit breath of life that God breathed in, returns to God who gave it, man sleeps in the dust of the earth and he is a dead soul, with his body buried in the ground until the breath of life returns and he again becomes a living soul. A dead soul cannot rise up to meet Jesus because he has no life, and he cannot wander around Heaven talking to loved ones also sleeping in the ground, because his thoughts have ceased.

Psalms 146:2 & 4 “While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. ⁴His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”



The dead in Christ shall rise first **when the breath of God’s Spirit is breathed back into their sleeping body**, and rise up as the bride of Christ to meet Him in the air!

Ezekiel 37:4-5 “Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.”

7. IF WE DIE BEFORE JESUS COMES, WE FALL ASLEEP AND DON'T WAKE UP UNTIL THE WEDDING!

When the breath of life goes back to God who gave it, the breath of life giving you life is absent from the body & present with the lord.

2 Corinthians 5:1-4 “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: ³ If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.”

We shall have a new body that will be eternal in Heaven, but **right now we groan because our body is mortal.** We do not want to rise up unclothed with no body, but **we want to be clothed in our immortal body** when death shall be swallowed up in Christ.



1 Corinthians 15:51-52 “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

We sleep until we awaken to put on immortality at the last trumpet call!

2 Corinthians 5:8 “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

We are confident in the resurrection, and willing for our life breath, which is our spirit, to be absent from this body and present with the Lord, so we can be clothed upon with our new eternal body when Jesus comes!

1 Thessalonians 4:6-7 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

8. WE LIVE IN A FALLEN WORLD, BUT OUR WEDDING WITH CHRIST SHALL BE IN THE BEAUTY OF HEAVEN.

We are tested by heartache and unfairness all around us, though we are blessed, but we long for the day when we will hear the trumpet call, when there is no more sorrow for the former world is passed away; there will be unspeakable joy at the wedding in Heaven!

*1 Peter 1:7-9 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet **believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:** ⁹Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”*

When you watch a bride and groom at their wedding you see joy on their faces, for they are beginning a new life with the love of their life. Sometimes the devil gets his foot in the door and humans fall and fail, but Jesus never fails, and His love endures forever! Whatever our failures or heartaches, in the twinkling of an eye, memories of this old world will pass away as we find ourselves in the amazing presence of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Revelation 21:4 “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

The marriage supper of the Lamb is sooner than we think!

*Revelation 21:7 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for **the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.** ⁸And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints....⁹And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.** And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”*

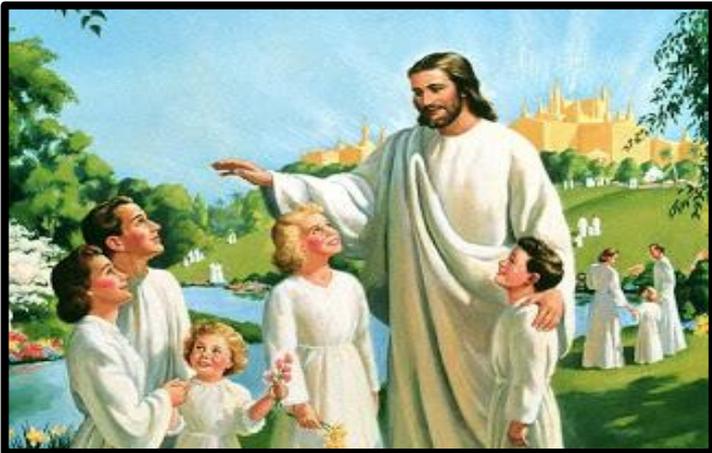


Jesus calls us to drink and be filled, for He is coming soon!

9. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME.

1. Jesus cares about our problems and wants to fix them.
2. Jesus replaces our dishonor, with honor.
3. Jesus fills empty vessels with living water.
4. Jesus wants us to purify ourselves like He is pure.
5. Jesus is coming to another wedding where you are invited!
6. Jesus gives us gifts of His Holy Spirit to make us beautiful.
7. God raises His Bride to life by the breath of His mouth.
8. If we die before Jesus comes, we fall asleep and don't wake up until the wedding!
9. We live in a fallen world, but our wedding with Christ shall be in the beauty of Heaven!
10. Jesus calls us to come drink and be filled because He is coming soon.

Our Dear Father, thank you that you care for each one of us so deeply and that you know what we need before we even ask, and thank you for answering our prayers when our hearts cry out to you. Lord Jesus we surrender our hearts completely to you, and pray for fresh infilling of your Holy Spirit that empowers each of us to overcome the world, and to speak your word boldly. We pray for a baptism of joy in your presence, and pray that you change us more and more each day to be more like you, that we may bring you honor and glory in our lives, and be ready for your soon appearing, for we ask **in Jesus' name, Amen.**



10. CHILDREN'S STORY: Jesus Turned the Water into Wine



After Jesus was baptized, he walked with his disciples all way to Cana in Galilee where they were invited to a wedding. A very mild wine like grape juice was the everyday drink in

Galilee, and very special wine was served for a wedding feast that would last for 7 days, but the wine had all run out! If the other wedding guests found out, the father of the bride would be seen as a laughing stock by the other men, and the family would be shamed. Jesus saw 6 tall water pots so big that altogether they could hold 122 gallons, and saved the honor of the family by telling the servants to fill the waterpots full of water, and then go and pour wine for the guests. What was going to happen? Would the guests laugh when they were served water? No because this was the first miracle of Jesus, and when the guests tasted the wine, they were amazed that this wine was the best they had ever tasted!

Jesus is coming to another wedding, but this wedding will be in Heaven! When Jesus comes to call up His church to Heaven, our old sick bodies will be changed in the twinkling of an eye into perfect healthy bodies that can live forever in Heaven with Jesus! Jesus calls the church his bride because you are so beautiful to Him. The bride and groom are a picture of Jesus and His church. When Jesus comes into your heart, He gives you special gifts of His Holy Spirit that make you even more beautiful so you will be ready to rise up to meet Him in the air when He comes. At the marriage supper in Heaven, Jesus promises that He will wipe every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more sorrow, nor crying, and no more pain, because all those sad things will be gone and our hearts will be glad!

Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding in Cana, and Jesus turns our sadness into gladness, what a wonderful Savior!

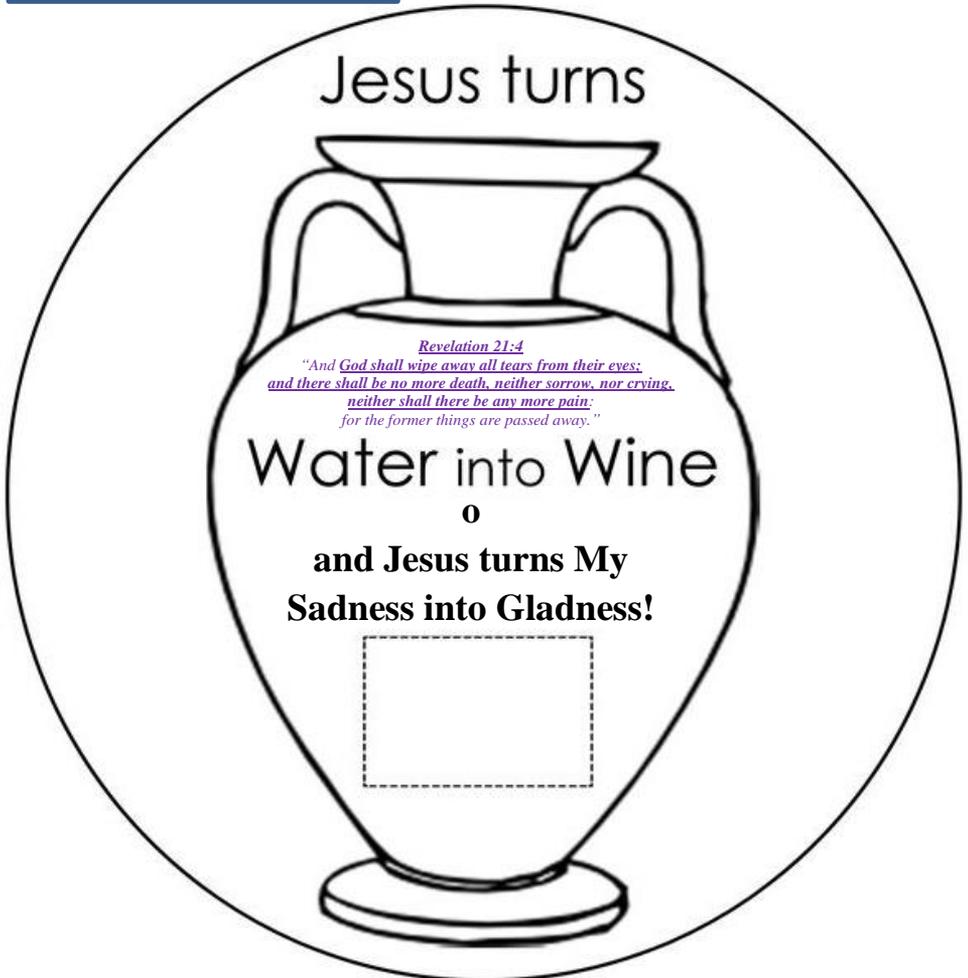
11. GOSPEL CRAFT: Stone Pots Filled with Living Water

DIRECTIONS:

1. Enlarge and make color copy to 8 ½ x 11" white card stock.
2. Cut out circle & dotted rectangle so color words will show when top is turned.
3. Cut out 'SAD' & 'GLAD' rectangles & glue to white plate behind the waterpot.
4. Poke a nail in center dot through both card and plate.
5. Poke a Brad through front of card & plate to the back, open and tape in place.
6. Turn Plate while holding Card to see water turn to wine & sad turn to Glad!

SAD

GLAD



12. COLORING PAGE: Jesus Turns the Water into Wine



JESUS TURNED THE WATER INTO WINE

2 Corinthians 4:7 *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*