

Series: John

Title: Problem Solving

Text: John 2:6-11

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John, the Gospel of John chapter 2. There are notes in your bulleting. And I would invite you to use them as we study the world of God.

We are looking at the first miracle that Jesus performed. This miracle happened at a marriage ceremony in Cana of Galilee. Last ~~week~~ ^{Time Together} we learned something concerning the situation that caused this miracle. It seems that the host ran out of wine. And this was a big problem. So the mother of Jesus wanted him to do something about this problem.

I remained you that Jesus performed this miracle in order that you ^{and I} might believe that Jesus is the Son of God. And if ^{we} ~~you~~ would believe ^{we} ~~you~~ would have eternal life.

John chapter 2 beginning at Vs. 6. Would you please stand for the reading of God's Word?

(Read John 1:6-11)

(Prayer)

⁽³⁾ Today, I want to look at the means by which Jesus solved this problem of no wine at the marriage feast. And in solving this problem

we can learn some principle about problem solving from the Master, himself. HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM? This is the content of verses 5 and 6.

Maybe you would like to look for a moment at your own life and the solving of problems. Because there is a tremendous application here. Four principles I want to throw your way.

(1) Number one: I notice in vs. 5 that the solving of any problem begins with a decision to obey. A decision to obey. Mary said to the servants, "What ever He says to you, do it."

Let me ask you a question? Do you believe that? Do you really?

Let me give you an example. Let's say that you would read in the Bible these words: "Go to the golden gate bridge and jump off." And let's say that Jesus said it; and he wants you to do it. WOULD YOU DO IT?

Now, you might respond, "Wait a minute. I don't understand. Why would Jesus want me to do that?"

I agree with you. It might seem a little unusually with His nature and plan. But, suppose that he ask you to do it. Would you do it?

Dear friends, do you understand? Lordship means obedience.

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Do you ever find yourself asking questions of God? Maybe I am the only one that does that. I want a little bit more information before I obey. God says, "Do this." And I say, "Well, ah, maybe you could give me a little bit more information before I get involved."

WHAT EVER HE SAYS, DO IT.

Dear Friends

~~You know~~, many times the reason why problems are not solved in our life is because we do not understand that it begins with a decision to obey. It is a decision of the will. It is not what I understand. It is whether or not I am going to do it. There are many things that I don't understand about the Bible, but whatever He says, do it.

In I John 3:22 we read, "that the man who is pleasing God is the one who is keeping His commandments." I don't understand them all. But, He says do it. Whatever He says we should do.

Did you notice something in Vs. 5? The servants didn't give Mary 35 reasons why they should not do this. Did you ~~know~~^{Notice} that? Think about that for a moment. Because what I am going to share with you from Verses 6 and 7, you may not have heard before.

I know as a child in Sunday School, I never really understood it.
(2) Look at Vs 6 and 7... This is the second ^{Principle} ~~thing~~ that is involved in solving ^a ~~the~~ problem. First, it begins with a decision to obey Him. Secondly, it involves following his direction to the very letter. Following Jesus' directions.

You see we have a directional and instructional manual in the Bible. And we are to follow it to the very letter. Sometimes it will seem strange to us. ^{Maybe} we will not understand. ^{Listen, These men did not understand} ~~Boy, it sure did to these men.~~
Vs 6.. "Now there were six stone waterpots"....By the way, those pots were not there for drinking water. They were there for ceremonial ~~the~~ cleansing. Which is clear from the text. Vs 6..."set there for the Jewish custom of purification."

Now, when I first heard this story, I imagine ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ my mind some pots with water in them. Now, friends that falls far short of what is really being said here.

Vs 6 also says that the pots contain twenty or thirty gallons each. Have you ever tried to left 20 gallons of water?.....It is heavy, let me tell you....And there were six pots or 120 to 180 gallons of water.

^{You know} ~~Boy~~, the people who try, if you will pardon the expression, ~~to~~ water down this miracle. It is amazing. Because they don't read it carefully. You talk about a miracle. WOW...This is no little hand full ^{POTS} ~~things~~ that could easily be moved around.

Like..one liberal critic said, "When Jesus wasn't looking, they just sort of slipped in ^a pot of wine...NO WAY....These pots held 20 to 30 gallons. And there were six of them.

Can you imagine what these servants thought when Jesus said, "Fill them up with water".

Now, if you think they were going to drink the water you have another thing coming. They didn't drink water anymore than they do in places today in Israel. It is unsanitary. That is why wine is the common drink.

^{So,} Now imagine that. These servants are pouring that water into those pots. And if you think they had a hose to use, boy are you outdated.

Do you know what these servants had to do? They had to go to the one water supply in Cana, the community well, drew all that water from the well and fill those 6 pots.....

Can you imagine what they were thinking when they were doing this...? WHATEVER HE SAYS TO DO, DO IT...

Notice, Vs 7...it says "to the brim".....

Many literal cirtics says, Those who don't like miracles, they say, "What happened was that they were really filling those pots with wine, but it was only half full. And peop~~le~~e couldn't see it. So, they thought it was water." OH,NO, it was right to bhe brim. Anybody could come along..."RIGHT ON..THAT IS WATER, ALRIGHT".....

Can you imagine what was going on in their minds? "Follow his i instructions to the very letter."

By John GOD WANTS THAT ^{of} EVERYONE OF US. Even when we don't understand. *Like Time*
(3) ^{O.K.} well, the third ^{thing} involved in soloving this problem was faith. Faith and a lot of it.

Vs 8, Jesus siad to those servant...Those poor guys are already wone out from filling up those water pots.....And now Jesus says, "Draw some out, and take it to the headwaiter."

Now, isn't it interesting that you don't have these servants asking all kinds of questions about the reasons for doing ~~this~~...Nothing....They just did it...Now, don't you think that you would have just a small problem having gone to the well, draw 120 gallaons of water, put it into all those pots, seeing all that water, and then having Jesus tell you to draw some from the pot and give it to the headwaiter?....and pretained that it was wine?....

Now, don't you think that you would have a problem? Maybe just a little one?....SURE YOU WOULD..

You know, Jesus could have walked over to that water and laid his hand on it and said: "Be thou wine!!!!!" And it would have been....He could have done that... *But He didn't*

X: 1 decision to obey
2 Follow his instructions
3 Faith

So, isn't interesting the method he used? He ask those servants to have faith. To draw out that water and take it to the headwaiter..

And let me tell you that that was a real test of faith... ^{what} if it were only water when you got to the headwaiter?....Those servants would probable have lost their life.... X

(40) Faith (40), notice the satisfaction of the headwaiter. What really happened? How miracleious was this?

Vs 9...."And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, 'Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then, that which is poorer; ^{not} you have kept the good wine until now.'

Many people skip over the remark about the good or the best wine. WHAT IS THE POINT?

Well, let me remaind you of the processing of wine in that day. It was not the same ^{as} of alcholic processing today.

When you took the grapes out of the vineyards and carried them to the wine vats, these vats are in the ground...3 to 4 feet..below the ground.... it is all covered with stones....And there was a grate covering the vat. The grapes would be put on the grate. Then you would get on the grate and stomp out the juice...And the juice that comes out of those grapes.....the fresh grape juice is called, without exception, "the best wine."....No processing of the grapes....no firmation.....The fresh juice as it comes from stomping those grapes was called without exception...THE VERY BEST WINE....

Doesn't it sound good...Boy, I am getting thirsty.....That is the best wine....

Now, why do I point that out to you?....Because, you see, so many people have not seen the miracelous nature, here, of what Jesus did. Even at that last moment there is no way that they could have produced this kind of wine. Because when Jesus turned the water into wine, he turned it into the wine that comes out off those grapes that are freshly pressed. *The best wine.*

Correct

This isn't wine that they have had around for 40 days or one or two years. ^{No way!} Some ~~how~~ ^{changed} he changed that ~~water~~ ^{water} into the very best wine

And you can imagine how surprised the headwaiter of the feast was. The best wine is always presented to the guest at the beginning of the feast. And then the watered down wine, the weak wine, is always served last. And here we find in Vs 9, the headwaiter tasting that best wine at the end of the feast rather than at the beginning. A tremendous miracle.

Now, if you think that I am going to let you go this morning without talking about wine, you are wrong.....Here we go....Grap your wine bottle and listen carefully.

It is not easy to answer this problem because there are 300 references to wine in the Old and New Testaments. There is a lot said about wine. The problem that faces us here in this passage is: DID OUR LORD CONDON AND INDIRECTLY AUTHORIZE THE DRINKING OF WINE AT THIS MARRIAGE?

He changed the water into wine. So, how can we say that one should not drink wine. And people argue that way. And doesn't it say that after they had drunk, they served this wine?

Well, the answer to that last question is easy...They simply ran out of wine because of the duration of the feast, not because they were all drunk.. They all had something to drink. Whether it was the first day or the second day, I do not know. But they had run out of wine. The size of the crowd would have an effect on that.

THE QUESTION IS ..WAS THE WINE ALCHOLIC?....And if so, is it O.K. to drink wine today? And does Jesus condon it? And dose not the Bible say on one occassion when Jeus was eating and drinking with publicans and sinners and the Pharisees looked at that said, "Behold a wine bibber and a gloteious ^{man} ~~one~~?" Well, a wine bibber is not someone who has just had a little tast and then sets it down. OH, no a wine bibber is someone who has had to much...

Now, Jesus was never drunk, nor was any of his disciples....The Bible always condumns drunkenness. Whether it is in the Old or New Testaments.

BUT, SHOULD WE DRINK WINE?.... WAS THAT WINE ALOCHOLIC?

First of all, that wine was not processed as it is today. If anyone tells you that, they are wrong. In no way can we make any comparison on that issue. So, it is not the same.

Secondly, if you think that that wine was not fermented, as I have read so often in christian literature, you are also wrong. That is not true. As a matter of fact, the first day after the grapes are pressed there is foam on them. Fermentation is taking place. And in 40 days the process is completed which resulted in the common oriental beverage of wine that is being ~~used~~ used all the time. They keep it up to 3 years, by the way. And I just ~~know~~ know that after 3 years it must have been pretty strong.

Now, the best wine was never mixed with anything. The O.T. talks about mixed and strong drink. And we are told to stay away from it. It was often mixed with water which weakened it. It was also mixed with different kinds of herbs. Which made it very intoxicating. The Bible tells us to stay away from this drink.

However, the Bible does tell us that strong drink is good for those who are ready to die. Proverbs 31:6 says, also, that strong drink should be given to those people whose life is bitter. ~~and~~

Paul wrote to Timothy and said that Timothy should ~~use~~ use some for his stomach's sake....So, it is recommended in certain cases of sickness.

And Jesus certainly drank wine and so did his disciples.

But, the Bible also warns us about the drinking of wine by many illustrations. Example: the Priest when they went in to minister in the Tabernacle was forbidden to drink wine at all while ministering.

The Nazirites at the time of their vows were not to drink wine. But they could after the vow was finished.

The prophet and priest was not to drink while he was teaching ~~at~~ least it would cause him to error, and to misinterpret the word of God.

Kings and princes were, also, forbidden to drink wine, least they would hinder the law and mis-interpret it.

In the N.T. Pastors and Deacons are instructed ~~to~~ to use moderation in the drinking of wine.

Literally it says, "don't be along side of wine." ~~My~~ which was used of a drunk.

So, the Bible condemns it constantly as to drinking it ~~too~~ or drinking to much of it.

The Bible also tells us not to drink if it causes someone to stumble. If it causes them to become drunk with that wine.

The Bible also warns us not to give our neighbor drink with the idea of getting them drunk in order to get something out of them.

The Bible says that wine is a mocker. It will cause you to be deposed and to error. It will come as a serpent and bite you when you thought you had control of it.

The Bible tells us not to seek it, or to long after it ~~to~~ in order to solve our problems. It says that the lack of control is a harmful thing. And the Bible calls it an abomination in the sight of the Lord.

The Bible tells us, also, that it is sin that war against the spirit filled life. This principle is found in Ephesians and Galatians.

Friends, over and over again the Bible gives us much advise about drinking wine.

CAN WE SAY THAT ALL WINE DRINKING IS SIN?....Absolutely not....If we did, we would have to say that Jesus sinned..

People, say, "Well, he was drinking only grape juice. It wasn't fermented. You cannot argue that. That is wrong. And it only makes the critics of the scripture laugh with delight.

But, is it the same as alcoholic processing today?... ~~NO~~ NO. *Way*
I say this to you as a believer or as a non-believer...if there is any temptation at all in your heart, that is controlling you, and you know that this thing is just capturing you, bother, you had better stop it right now and have nothing to do with it. If there is a question and a doubt in your mind, as to whether it is right or not, for you, the Bible says that when you are in doubt, you are judged and condemned by God if you go ahead and do it, ~~when~~ when you know you shouldn't.

So, there are many principles which guide the believer.

~~The~~ To the none-believer the Bible constantly warns that strong drink can take his heart away from God. It hinders his senses and his will so that he can no longer respond as God wants him to, to the truth of the Gospel.

So, we are warned much about this.

Jesus drink wine and so did his disciples. But the processes of firmantation is not the same as it is today.

I can not answer for ever person. Because I believe in the Priesthood of the believer. But, I tell you this. We ought to stay away from anything that hinderes our respons to God. Anything that will make it hard for us to know and understand and to the will of God.

So, we have this problem here of wine. Did Jesus turn it into wine? YES.. And it was the best wine. It was a miracle.

ye *now* the question is why?..... *why this miracle?* Vs 11 tells us why... There are two reasons given.

The Bible says that it is the biginning of miracles or signs that Jesus did. And two things summarize the results.

(1) One, the Bible says that it manifested His glory. His ability to change the water into wine proved to the people that He was all that he cāimed to be. Tremendous power. If he can change that water into the very best of wine, he can change you, my friend.

I don't care what your circumstances are. He can change you.

Half the problems we have as believers is that we have forgotten the one who changed the water into wine. We forget the miracleous power of Jesus Christ. I don't know what problems you face...what trails you are going through...But we have to believe with faith as these servants did and obey that a miracle can be performed in our lives.

Jesus Christ can change you. *Jesus* Christ can perform a miracle in your life.

Perhaps you have never come to that place of settling your relationship with Jesus. Then look to this miracle. The Bible says that these signs were written to prove to you that Jesus is the Son of God.

And that believing in him you will have life in his name. Believe it and you will have it. Refuse to believe it and you will never receive it.

(2) The second result is that his disciples believed in Him. They learned about the savior. He who told them to come and follow me, now, they see a miracle and they believe in Him. Truly He is the Messiah. This is proof. We have seen his power.

And it is amazing to me that the same thing is true today. A person comes to know Jesus Christ and they stand and say: "I know ^{Jesus} he is real. I know that he lives. I know that he has changed my life."

And God can do the same thing for you, brother. And God can do the same thing for you sister.

You, who have an ear, let him hear what the Word of God says:

Shall we close in prayer?