CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS
MARCH06 2021

Scripture Story: John 2:1-11.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages,* chapter 15.

celebrating with Jesus



Photo by Alden Ho

flashlight

"Jesus did not begin His ministry by some great work before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem. At a household gathering in a little Galilean village His power was put forth to add to the joy of a wedding feast. Thus He showed His sympathy with men, and His desire to minister to their happiness. In the wilderness of temptation He Himself had drunk the cup of woe. He came forth to give to men the cup of blessing, by His benediction to hallow the relations of human life" (*The Desire of Ages,* p. 144).

keytext

"This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him."

(John 2:11)

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what do you think?

If Jesus came to a celebration with me and my friends, I would

____ invite Him to come in and bless our company with His presence.
____ ask Him to perform a miracle.
____ stop the party and have a Bible study.
____ start hiding things that He wouldn't approve of.
____ ask questions and allow Him to offer counsel.
____ ask Him to take the lead in how He would want to spend time with us.

did you know?

The Sabbath and marriage are two of God's original gifts to the human family. They were intended to provide the joys of rest and belonging regardless of time, place, and culture. The establishment of these two institutions culminated God's creation of this earth. They were His finale—the best of the exceedingly good gifts He gave humanity at Creation. In establishing the Sabbath, God gave human beings a time of rest and renewal, a time for fellowship with Him. In forming the first family, He established the basic social unity for humanity, giving them a sense of belonging and providing them with an opportunity to develop as well-rounded persons in service to God and others" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe* [2005], p. 330).

INTO THE STORY

"On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.'

"Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.'

"His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it.'

"Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.

"Jesus said to them, 'Fill the waterpots with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, 'Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.'

"And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, 'Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!'

"This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him."

(John 2:1-11)



OUT OF THE STORY

Why do you think Jesus chose to perform His first miracle at a wedding?

Jesus told Mary, "My hour has not yet come." What do you think He meant by this? Why did Jesus perform the miracle anyway?

Why do you think Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them, even though at that point Jesus had said He wasn't going to get involved? What does this suggest about the relationship between Mary and Jesus?

How did Jesus bless the institution of marriage by participating and performing His first miracle at a wedding feast?

How did this miracle reveal Jesus' glory?

punch lines

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" **(1 Corinthians 13:4-8).**

"And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, 'Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance'" **(Luke 5:30-32).**

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" **(Galatians 6:2).**

"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" **(Amos 3:3).**

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" **(Galatians 6:9, 10).**

further insight

"A Jewish marriage was an impressive occasion, and its joy was not displeasing to the Son of man. By attending this feast, Jesus honored marriage as a divine institution. In both the Old and the New Testament, the marriage relation is employed to represent the tender and sacred union that exists between Christ and His people" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages,* p. 151).

connectingtolife

Sabbath

Read Genesis 1:26, 27.

Read the *Into the Word* section of the lesson and think about the questions that follow it. How did Jesus show His support and blessing on the institution of marriage by participating at the wedding reception in Cana?

Reflect on the following statement: "Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and a woman who share a common faith" (Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs, Marriage and the Family).

What counsel does the Bible provide concerning the importance of choosing a spouse wisely? What lessons can you draw from the Bible about wise and unwise marriages? What are the consequences of unwise choices? How can a marriage partner affect a person's lifelong happiness and eternal destiny?

Sunday

Read Matthew 19:4-6.

What does the story of the wedding feast tell you about how Jesus feels when people are celebrating the innocent joys of life? What is the difference between the celebrations Jesus would gladly attend and those where He would not feel welcome?

Write down ways you can be involved in your local community by sharing in people's joys or sorrows and providing for their needs.

Monday

Read John 2:11.

This week's *Key Text* tells us that this first miracle helped build up the disciples' faith in Jesus. Look in John 4, Luke 4 and 5, and Mark 1 to see what some of Jesus' other early miracles were. List five in the chart below, and for each one write what you think the disciples might have thought after seeing it.

Miracle	What the Disciples Thought

Tuesday

Read Philippians 2:4.

Read the *Flashlight* section. This passage contrasts the suffering Jesus went through when He was being tempted in the wilderness (see Matthew 4 or Luke 4) with the joy and happiness that He brought to others when He performed His first miracle at the wedding feast.

How could you use a difficult time in your life to help and bless other people? What can you do to make a difference in the lives of others who are facing challenges?

Wednesday

Read Romans 5:8.

Read the *Punch Lines* section. Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding reception. With His presence at that event He blessed once again the bond of marriage between a man and a woman that was ordained at Creation. His miracle was evidence to His desire to meet human needs by contributing to the innocent joys of life and to the well-being of others.

Did you know that you too can make a difference in your community? On Global Youth Day, March 20, plan to participate in a community service project with other young people from your church. Some examples of how you can contribute include: visiting a nursing home, hospital, orphanage, or prison, to comfort and pray for those who are sick, needy, and destitute. The possibilities are endless. Choose a project with your Sabbath School class and plan together how you will carry out the project. Be creative!

Thursday

Read Ecclesiastes 11:9.

Jesus' life—especially the miracle at Cana—shows that He enjoyed celebrating the innocent joys in life and bringing happiness to others. He celebrated life with His disciples and friends. And He enjoys watching us celebrate in healthy, positive ways too.

If one has not been chosen in Sabbath School, think of an activity that you and some friends—or perhaps you and your Sabbath School class—can plan to help demonstrate God's love in your community. Plan to participate in a community service project with other young people from your church on Global Youth Day, March 20. Discuss yours or the Sabbath School class's plans with a friend.

Friday

Read Ephesians 6:1-3.

Jesus can take ordinary things in our lives and transform them into something special. What needs to be transformed in your life today?

What changes need to happen in your life so that you can become an effective witness for Jesus in your family, neighborhood, and community at large?

this week's reading*

The Desire of Ages (or *Humble Hero*), chapter 15.

**Humble Hero* is a special adaptation of *The Desire of Ages,* created by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at http://www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companionbooks#.URIhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.

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