



DEVOTIONAL

Water into Wine  
21-27 June 2010

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Monday 21 June 2010

## **Jesus' promise of abundance & joy**

### Scripture readings:

*John 2 vs 1-11*

*Nehemiah 8 vs 10*

*Psalms 32 vs 11*

*John 10 vs 10*

*Jude 1 vs 24*

Jesus' first miracle was not what one might have expected it to be. He didn't do something that was obvious or flashy. He didn't even do something that was really important. All Jesus' other miracles involved life and death, illness and health, hunger and nourishment, but this first one was not a miracle of a necessity. The people at the wedding feast didn't *need* more wine, so why did Jesus choose to perform this miracle?

Perhaps this first miracle points not only to the power and supernatural ability of our God, but also to His heart that longs for each of us to live in His abundance and joy. Perhaps this miracle is a message that Jesus came, not just to rescue us from death and sin, but to give us the life that is truly life. God is not just concerned about our needs. He cares deeply about the desires of our hearts and about our happiness. He doesn't just want us to escape death, He wants us to really have life.

May you know the joy of God today, no matter where you are or what you are facing and may you delight in the love and grace of God that calls you not just to live with Him, but to celebrate with Him!

Tuesday 22 June 2010

## Water into Wine Through the eyes of the Mary

### Scripture readings:

*John 2 vs 1-5*

*Luke 11 vs 5-10*

*Luke 18 vs 1-8*

Sometimes we, like Mary at the wedding feast in Cana, are anxious for God to act and to display His power in our lives. Mary had raised Jesus and had spent thirty odd years watching Him. She knew Who He was and what He could do and when the wedding party ran out of wine, she sought Jesus out, looking for a miracle – one Jesus didn't seem all too eager to perform. Yet, ultimately, Jesus did what Mary asked of Him.

At times we become impatient with God. We stay near to Him and witness His greatness. We know what He can do, but He doesn't seem to be acting on our behalf or displaying His power. At those times, God asks us to be patient and persistent.

Jesus told His followers two parables (in Luke 11 and 18) about being persistent in seeking God, in prayer and in faith. When He doesn't appear to be acting for us it is not because He is disinterested or aloof, or because He does not have the power to act, but it is rather for our benefit. When He seems distant, we have the option to relent and move away, or we can press in and learn what it means to seek God with all our hearts, knowing that He promises that those who do, will find Him.

*"...we must "always" maintain a spirit of prayer, or be in a proper frame to lift up our hearts to God for his blessing, and we must not grow weary though our prayer seems not to be answered." – Albert Barnes*

## **Water into Wine Through the eyes of the servants**

Scripture readings:

*John 2 vs 5-8*

*2 Corinthians 5 vs 7*

*Hebrews 11 vs 6*

*John 14 vs 23*

Imagine for a moment that you are one of the servants at the wedding feast in Cana. A strange man, who seems to have great presence and respect, but about Whom you know nothing, is approached to sort out the problem of the wine that has run out. In response, He tells you to take ceremonial cleansing water from stone jars to the master of ceremonies to taste. How do you think you would have reacted?

Often, the things our Supernatural God asks of us seem bizarre. Sometimes they seem as though they will jeopardise our status or others' opinion of us and more often than not, they don't make sense or fit into our "practical" framework. God says in Isaiah 55 vs 9 that His ways are higher than ours and that His thoughts are beyond our comprehension. Our walk with God is not one in which we will always understand and in which things will always make sense. It is a walk of faith.

God asks us to obey wholeheartedly, not just when it seems practical to us, but no matter what. He asks us to trust Him and to place our lives in His hands. It isn't easy, but we can be sure that only those who will dare to trust and obey, even when it doesn't make sense, will see God's miracles.

Thursday 24 June 2010

# Water into Wine

## Through the eyes of the master of ceremonies

Scripture readings:

*John 2 vs 9-10*

*Romans 8 vs 28*

The master of the feast at the wedding was party to Jesus' first miracle. He was a central character in the story that day as history was made and He witnessed an incredible act of God on His behalf... but He didn't know it.

God is always at work around us. In ways we can never comprehend, He is arranging the universe and directing our individual lives. He promises us in His Word that He is working all things for the good of those who love Him, but often we, like the master of the feast who tasted the miraculous wine, are entirely unaware of the miracles He is doing in and for us.

How much do you think God has done for you that you have not even noticed? How much does He do for you "behind the scenes" every day? What has He done in your life that you simply take for granted?

*"Believe that God is at work, behind the scenes. He is connecting the "odd" pieces of the jigsaw of your life into a glorious bigger picture. Believe me. He'll make all things work for your good. Your deepest pain will be your most glorious blessing." - Bo Sanchez*

Friday 25 June 2010

# Water into Wine Through the eyes of the disciples

## Scripture readings:

*John 2 vs 11*

*Matthew 4 vs 18-20*

*Matthew 19 vs 16-22*

The disciples had chosen to follow Jesus. They had seen something in His eyes, or sensed something about Him; He had stirred something deep within their hearts and they had chosen to abandon their regular pursuits and to follow Him. On that day, at the wedding in Cana, they saw and experienced for the first time what they had been hoping and believing for... that Jesus was Who He said He was. Those who had chosen to follow Him, at great personal cost, experienced His glory... and it was only the beginning.

In contrast, the rich young ruler described in Matthew 19, could not bring himself to make the sacrifice required to follow Jesus. Jesus offered Him the same invitation... "Come, follow Me," but this man turned and walked away disappointed. Think about how much he missed out on seeing and experiencing.

Today, Jesus is issuing that same invitation to you. Will you follow Him? Jesus is continually performing miracles and revealing the glory of the Father. The question is, are you close enough to experience them?

Saturday 26 June 2010

## **Water into wine Through MY eyes**

### Scripture readings:

*Matthew 19 vs 26*

*Mark 9 vs 23*

*Philippians 4 vs 4*

The miracle of water into wine issues two invitations to us. The first is an invitation to believe. When we witness the miracles and glory of Jesus, how will we respond? Will we, like his disciples, see and therefore, believe and put our faith in Him? Will we remember and trust that nothing is impossible with God and therefore step boldly into the tomorrow He has prepared for us?

The second invitation is a call to celebrate and rejoice. Jesus didn't need to provide more wine, but He did it so that the celebration at the wedding could continue. He calls each of us to a life of joy and celebration and when we know and love Him, there is always something to celebrate.

Today, may you rejoice in the certainty of God's love for you. May your eyes be opened to the miracles He is working in you, for you and through you, may you know His peace that passes understanding and His fullness of joy. May you delight in His goodness and rejoice in the truth that nothing is impossible with Him.

*“Genuine happiness is spiritual; as it can only come from God, so it infallibly tends to him.” – Adam Clarke*