

Sonoraville Baptist Church
Sunday, July 25, 2010 – 11:00 AM
Rev. Steve Skates, Pastor

Series: Portraits of Jesus

Jesus: The Son of Man - John 2:1-11

Introduction: Last Sunday evening we began a series called “Portraits of Jesus.” This series is based in the Gospel of John and in it, we’ll be looking at the various ways the Apostle John knew and described Jesus. In our first message, we said that John was able to describe Jesus like no other gospel writer because he had a special relationship with the Savior unlike any other disciple. As we saw in chapter 1, John gives convincing evidence of the deity of Jesus and proves Him to be the God/man - the very Word of God.

Now we come to chapter 2 where John gives us a snapshot from the life and ministry of Jesus. In verses 1-11, we find Jesus at a wedding. As John paints this picture of the Jesus as the Son of Man, he reveals a Jesus who is concerned with the problems and situations of everyday life. He shows us not only a Savior who cares about people, but a Christ who can meet the everyday needs of people in miraculous ways! This morning, we’re going to drop in on this scene in Cana of Galilee and witness Jesus: The Son of Man. First, we notice:

1. Jesus’ Participation in Life (1-2)

A. The Circumstances (1) – The circumstance of this occasion was a wedding. Weddings were huge social events those days, often lasting a week. We are not told who is getting married, but we do know that Mary, Jesus’ own mother, was involved in this one, so perhaps it was one of Jesus’ relatives.

One thing this teaches is the fact that Jesus chose to participate in this social event. It was something outside of the normal synagogue activity. It reminds us that Jesus isn’t just for Sunday! He deserves to be included in all areas of life - especially marriage! But notice next in vs. 2:

B. The Call (2) Jesus is at this wedding because someone invited Him! This reminds us that we should be careful to invite Jesus into all areas of our lives. In fact, if we say that we belong to Him, then He should have access to everything in our lives!

Sadly, some Christians don’t open up every area of their life to God. They hold back, and try to maintain control of other areas and not let Christ be the Lord of all. That’s why people sometimes run into problems and they don’t know what to do. They try this and they try that, but they don’t think about turning it over to Jesus because they haven’t given Him the reins. Listen, Jesus is standing ready with the solution to your problem, but instead of butting in, He’s waiting patiently for your invitation!

Some Churches have even shut Christ out. That was the case at the church at Laodecia, where Jesus stood on the outside calling, *“Behold I stand at the door and knock...”* He was trying to get in His church, but the door wasn’t open. He had to knock!

The good news is, whenever we do call upon Jesus, He’ll come! Just like He faithfully answered this wedding invitation, He’ll come at your invitation because He cares. He knows there’s a need, or else we wouldn’t be calling, so He comes. Just as the old song says: *“Oh what peace we often forfeit, Oh what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer.”* Secondly, we notice:

2. Jesus’ Power over Problems (3-9)

The problem at this wedding was that during these festivities, they ran out of wine which was a big deal back then. It wouldn’t be much of a problem today because wine is so readily available. Someone could just run down to the store and get more. But back then, it could be disastrous!

You see, running out of any wedding supplies was a matter of honor and public perception. The bridegroom was responsible for providing adequate supplies. If something ran out before the party was over, it meant that he hadn’t planned well and hadn’t provided for all of his guests. Not to mention the public embarrassment for the groom and his family. So, this was a big problem.

This just goes to show us that life doesn’t always go according to plan, does it? Troubles and problems can crop up at any time and leave us embarrassed and unprepared. But isn’t it good to know that when these things happen, we can take them to Jesus? Even if nobody else can help, Jesus understands them all. **Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)** says, *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one*

who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin."

So don't think it's silly to call upon Jesus even when your problems seem small. He cares about even the small stuff in your everyday life. He's not too big to care and He's not too busy to come to your rescue.

In vs. 3-5, Mary shows us just what we need to do when these kind of problems come up.

3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

*5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." **John 2:3-5 (NIV)***

We see here that the first thing we need to do when problems crop up is:

A. Run To Jesus - Mary took this problem to the Lord. This is a good example for us to follow!

Philippians 4:6 (NLT) says, *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done."*

Jesus responded by asking her, *"Why do you involve me? My time has not yet come."* (4). Here, Jesus is simply reminding His mother as He first told her at age 12; that He has a greater agenda to fulfill than hers or the rest of the wedding party. He had to be about His father's business. His crucifixion time had not yet come, but His time to get down to the business He came for had come.

The next step we should take when trouble comes is:

B. Respond to His Commands - Mary understood what Jesus meant, so she told the servants, *"Do whatever He tells you."* Good advice! Just do as Jesus says! When problems pop up, the best thing we can do is do what Jesus says.

What has Jesus told us to do? When you're weary, He says, *"Come to Me...and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28 (NIV).

When we're stressed, He says, *"Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you."*

1 Peter 5:7 (NLT).

When we think that things are not going to work out, He reminds us that *"God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them."* **Romans 8:28 (NLT).**

When we need to know how to be saved, He's said for us to *"believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."* **Acts 16:31 (NLT).** So, come to Christ; respond to His commands and watch Him solve your problems!

Vs. 6-9 describe Jesus' method of handling the problem.

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,

*9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside **John 2:6-9 (NIV)***

This was certainly unconventional to say the least, but it was an awesome display of the power of Christ over the elements. This should serve to remind us that Jesus can change any situation if He is given the opportunity to do so.

Here, Jesus didn't just create new wine; He turned the water into wine! Now listen, the principle we need to learn here is that Jesus won't always run on your track! Yes, He will respond to our situation, but He may not do it exactly the way we expect.

Do you remember the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Why didn't God just send an angel to keep them from the fire? Well, He could have, but He chose to deliver them another way. We must remember that God's ways are not the same as ours - **Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)**, says, *"My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways..."*

Notice, when the water had been changed into wine, people couldn't believe it. The headwaiter even questioned the bridegroom as to why he had kept the good stuff until now. He couldn't believe what he was seeing. But the servants knew where it came from. They had carried those water pots. They experienced the change.

Listen! When you've carried your problems around for awhile, you know how heavy they are. But when you go to God with your problems and turn them over to Him, and He moves in and changes them from burdens to blessings, you never get over it.

Nobody else may understand what you are going through. But Jesus does! And, when He moves in your time of need and turns your darkness to daylight, you know it and you'll never forget it! To everyone else it was just wine, but to those who knew the truth, it was a miracle! But finally, we notice:

3. Jesus' Provision (10-11)

Jesus came through for the wedding party. He provided exactly what they needed to take care of the need. And He'll do the same for you for **Philippians 4:19 (NIV)** says, "*my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*" The key word is "*all.*" You don't have to study Greek to understand the meaning of "*all.*" He will meet every one of your needs!

Just ask the children of Israel who survived 40 years in the wilderness with nothing to eat but manna and quail and without a change of clothes if God provided for their needs.

Ask the old widow of Zeraphath whose meal barrel never ran out if God provided for all her needs

These people never forgot what God did for them. There are millions of others who could testify as well.

But not only did Jesus provide for the immediate physical need, He also provided a needed faith for the disciples. Notice in v. 11 - "*And his disciples put their faith in Him.*" This was the first of many miracles Jesus did to show His disciples just who He was. Up to this time, they were simply following Christ at a distance. They only knew Him as a great teacher who had persuaded them to follow Him. They knew there was something different about Him, but they couldn't quite put their finger on what it was.

But now they began to see clearly. They needed a sign to tell them whether or not to keep on following. And they got one.

You see, your faith in Jesus is never misplaced! If you'll just have a "*mustard seed*" faith, Jesus will meet that need and will move your mountain. He will never fail His children!

With this miracle, Jesus gave His disciples "*the first of his miraculous signs.*" In doing so, Jesus came through for them. He showed them a side of Him they had not seen before. And when Jesus comes through, it will always deepen your faith even in the midst of your trial. He'll strengthen your faith and give you hope for tomorrow.

Later, the disciples would witness Jesus miraculously feeding the 5,000 thousand. But soon, they'd doubt again when they got caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. But, then when Jesus fed the 4,000, we don't find them doubting again. Each time Jesus came through for them, their faith in Him increased! When Jesus comes through for you today, it gives you hope for tomorrow. If He can move that mountain today, then He can move that one you'll come to tomorrow!

Conclusion: As we talk about Jesus as the Son of Man, there is one thing you need to take home with you today. It's the fact that Jesus is forever tied to the events of your life. He's never removed from our need. He cares about the smallest details of your life, and waits for you to call Him into your time of need so He can minister to you. What is your need - to be saved? He can meet that need. **Luke 19:10 (NIV)** says, "*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*"

Do you need to be forgiven? He can do that too. **1 John 1:9 (NIV)** says, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*"

Do you have a burden, some bad situation you're in, some circumstances beyond your control, and you're worried about how to handle it? He can handle them all. **1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)** says, "*Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you.*" What am I telling you to do this morning? Just do as Mary did, bring it to Jesus who cares. Bring it to Jesus, the Son of Man and leave it there!