

Vision 2005

The Gospel and experience

11.27.05 | John 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION 10 MINUTES

What is the most memorable wedding or other fancy dress-up event you have participated in or attended? What made it memorable for you?

WORSHIP 20 MINUTES

Read Psalm 45 in unison. Then take a couple of minutes to worship God silently while reflecting on this psalm.

Psalm 45 (NIV)

- ¹ My heart is stirred by a noble theme
as I recite my verses for the king;
my tongue is the pen of a skillful
writer.
- ² You are the most excellent of men
and your lips have been anointed
with grace,
since God has blessed you forever.
- ³ Gird your sword upon your side,
O mighty one;
clothe yourself with splendor
and majesty.
- ⁴ In your majesty ride forth victoriously
in behalf of truth, humility
and righteousness;
let your right hand display
awesome deeds.
- ⁵ Let your sharp arrows pierce the
hearts of the king's enemies;
let the nations fall beneath your feet.
- ⁶ Your throne, O God, will last
for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the
scepter of your kingdom.
- ⁷ You love righteousness and hate
wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you
above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.
- ⁸ All your robes are fragrant with myrrh
and aloes and cassia;
from palaces adorned with ivory
the music of the strings makes you glad.
- ⁹ Daughters of kings are among your
honored women;
at your right hand is the royal bride
in gold of Ophir.
- ¹⁰ Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear:
Forget your people and your father's house.
- ¹¹ The king is enthralled by your beauty;
honor him, for he is your lord.
- ¹² The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift;
men of wealth will seek your favor.
- ¹³ All glorious is the princess within her chamber;
her gown is interwoven with gold.
- ¹⁴ In embroidered garments she is led to the king;
her virgin companions follow her
and are brought to you.
- ¹⁵ They are led in with joy and gladness;
they enter the palace of the king.
- ¹⁶ Your sons will take the place of your fathers;
you will make them princes
throughout the land.
- ¹⁷ I will perpetuate your memory through
all generations;
therefore the nations will praise you
for ever and ever.

John 2:1-10 (NIV)

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 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."

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 ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

STUDY & DISCUSSION 40 MINUTES

Consider this illustration as an introduction for the text of this week's study. Imagine you're on a road trip with family or friends from New York to Los Angeles. As you drive the highways of the country you will find yourself following road signs. When you come to the sign that says, LOS ANGELES NEXT EXIT, would you park your car at the location of the sign, get out and say, "We're here!?" Probably not, right? That is because you understand a sign to be pointing beyond itself to something else.

What is true about highway signs is also true about the signs in the Bible, especially in John's Gospel. In the Bible, signs are moments when heaven and earth intersect; they are moments when a temporal reality reveals an eternal truth. In other words, signs point beyond themselves to the truth that God wants to reveal about himself using ordinary means.

The passage we are about to study is the first stop of seven stops in the journey John takes his readers on. John uses seven signs to tell the story of Jesus. Let us take a closer look at the first one.

1. **What struck you about the person of Jesus in this passage? Did the sermon/passage in any way alter your stereotype of him? If so, how?**
2. **Looking at the passage as a whole, how does Jesus use the mundane to reveal deeper realities about himself?**
3. **One of the things single people do when they attend a wedding is contemplate or daydream about their own future weddings. Focusing in on v. 4, how might Jesus' seeming *non sequitur*—"My time has not yet come"—response to his mother's question be a contemplation of his own future wedding? (Cf. John 3:27ff; Rev 21:2, 9b) What does his *wedding* mean for us?**
4. **God demonstrates to us in Jesus Christ that he is truly involved in the ordinary stuff of life. Sometimes people are reluctant to involve God in certain areas of their lives. As you consider yourself and others around you, what are some of those areas that often remain "off limits" to God?**

DIRECTED PRAYER 20 MINUTES

1. **Pray** about those areas discussed in, and revealed by, question 4.
2. **Ask** God for forgiveness for not wanting his involvement in those areas.
3. Then, seeking to be transformed, turn to God and **ask** him to involve himself—by his Spirit—in those areas.

ACTIVITY

Plan a time to celebrate together! Cook a fine meal together and enjoy it; go to a "sit down" restaurant and enjoy a celebratory meal there! Eat, celebrate and enjoy the favor of friends!