

Study Guide for Jan. 20th, 2008. Water into Wine. John 2:1-11.

Introduction: Describe a wedding you recently attended. Did you sense the presence of Jesus? In what sense did he make his presence known? Who noticed or ignored him?

I. The Story: The miracle of water being changed into wine.

- A. When does the wedding occur? (see John 2:19)
- B. Where does the wedding occur? (see John 4:46, 50 & 21:2)
- C. Jesus and his mother.
 - 1) What does Jesus' mother initially say to him? What does this reveal about her?
 - 2) How does Jesus respond to her? What is Jesus expressing by this statement?
 - 3) How does she react to Jesus' statement? What does this reveal about her?
- D. How does the miracle unfold? Who notices it? Who is ignorant of the miracle?
- E. What interpretations have you heard to explain the meaning of this account?

II. The Symbols: The Messiah's glory is revealed.

- A. How will the messianic age be characterized? (Jer. 31:12, Hos. 14:7, Ams. 9:13-14)
- B. What does the wedding feast later represent? (Mt. 22:1-14, 25:1-13, Lk. 12:36)
- C. What does his hour or time mean for Jesus? (Jn. 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1)
- D. What is the purpose for the water jars? (Mk. 7:1-5, Jn. 3:25) What change occurs?
- E. In light of these symbols, how would you refine your interpretation of this account?

III. The Significance: The enduring meaning of the passage.

- A. What application can we draw from Jesus words to his mother? (see Mk. 3:33-35)
- B. Reflect on Jesus words in Mk. 2:18-22 in light of this parable. What applications can we draw for overcoming traditionalism and living in freedom by the Spirit?
- C. It was the faith of Jesus' disciples which grew (vs. 11) as a result of observing the miracle. What does that teach us about the growth of our faith in Jesus?