

DATE: June 14, 2009

TEXT: John 2: 1-11

TITLE: “John VI: Who is this Jesus?”



Let me begin by asking you this question: Who is Jesus Christ? If I would go into this church this morning I am sure each person could answer that question. But the question is this...how in depth would the answers be? We would hear “Jesus Christ is the Son of God” What does that mean? Jesus Christ was the son of Mary? O.K. Jesus walked on earth 2000 years ago. True. But the question is this... do you know a lot of facts about Jesus... or do you know Jesus? Beginning this morning and continuing throughout our study of John... we are going to get to know Jesus. My prayer is this... not more facts about Jesus.... Jesus himself who is alive today and in our lives today.

We are looking at the story of Jesus at the wedding in Cana. I want to share 4 facts about Jesus from our text.

Fact # 1 Jesus is a miracle worker. This is the first miracle of Jesus. He turned water into wine. Jesus was a miracle worker 2000 years ago and is a miracle worker today. The question

is this: why did Jesus perform miracles? In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke we get one answer. In John we get another answer... both are true. In the synoptic gospels Jesus performs miracles to demonstrate his compassion. Jesus truly loves his children. In John, Jesus performs miracles as signs of His power and authority. There are seven miracles in the Gospel of John... often connected to the 7 “I am” sayings. Remember, John does not structure his Gospel chronologically ... he structures his Gospel thematically. Do not try to “fit” John’s timing into the timing of Luke. *Verse 11 of our text says this...*

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Let me turn to a very difficult question. Why does Jesus not heal his followers? Some say “he just doesn’t care.” Nothing is further from the truth. Our Lord cares for each and everyone of His children. When we cry, he cries. When we grieve, he grieves. When we hurt, he hurts with us.

Some say “He doesn’t have the power.?” Again, nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus, remains the almighty God with all consuming power.

If he has the power and he has the compassion why does he not heal all? Let me share two reasons. First, god does not desire puppets. Do you understand that if god would intervene every time sin touches the lives of his children he would intervene constantly. Because of the choice of sin humanity made, we must live with the consequences of sin. Yes, that means tragic death. Yes, that means murder. Yes, that means cancer. Disease and death are the invention of man and the result of sin. God wants people to freely chose to follow his as Lord and Savior.... that means he has to allow man to reject Him and chose a path of sin... and the consequences of sin for himself and for others around him.

Second, God has a bigger view of life that we have. God understands that prolonging a life on this earth is not in the best interests of an individual. We cling to life and do everything we can to prevent death... God brings His children into his presence for eternity. D we understand that for us as Christians, the prayer to prolong life is, for the most part, a selfish prayer? Paul understood this. In *1 Corinthians 15* he states

54When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up

in victory." 55"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Do you see the truth taught here. Death is victory for the Christian. Why would God ever prolong a life on this earth?... why would God ever heal? For one reason and one reason only..... to bring Him glory! Do you see that truth....God does indeed upon occasion miraculously heal a person.... but never for the sake of the ill person (it's not good for that person) He heals for his glory and his ministry. Every person who was healed by Jesus died. His glory is the reason for healing and miracles.

Fact # 2 Jesus loves to have fun. This entire text takes place at a wedding. Yes, Jesus went to weddings. And yes, (are you ready for this) Jesus drank wine.

One of the great, great tragedy in this day and age is a false image of Jesus.... the image of a cosmic kill-joy. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus loved life.... and Jesus had a good time. How do I know this is true? I look at the accusations against Jesus. *Matt 11 states*

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' 19The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners."

Jesus was accused of being a glutton and a drunkard. Jesus. Why? Because he know

how to have fun. He know how to enjoy life. Jesus was attending this wedding in Cana. It was probably a wedding of a good family friend. It appears that Mary, his mother, was assisting in the organization fo this wedding. Understand this.... wedding celebrations, back then, usually lasted one week. The entire town was invited. Jesus had just met these 4 new friends and brought them along to this party.

I believe Jesus desires his disciples... that is you and me... to enjoy and celebrate life. We are to have “abundant lives.” *Beth Moore in her bible Study The Beloved disciple states*

God created humans with an authentic soul-need to feast and celebrate. In fact, God deemed celebration so vital that He commanded his people to celebrate at frequent intervals throughout the calendar year (Lev 23). Let me say this again; God commands us to celebrate his goodness and his greatness

Celebrations around Christ’s presence are wonderful; they are sparkling refreshment to a world-worn soul. We get to attend Christ’s kind of parties without taking home a lot of baggage or getting a hangover. Christ-centered celebrations are all the fun without the guilt. That’s real partying.

I believe the Bible is clear.... God created us to be filled individuals... filled with joy... filled with forgiveness... filled with the Holy Spirit. The tragedy is when people try to use substitute fillings. People try to use

alcohol
sex

Drugs
Money

football and other sports
family

entertainment
Expensive toys

I could go on and on. The greatest joy we have is being with other Christians just enjoying life. Worshiping, laughing, celebrating. We join Jesus and we celebrate living.

Fact # 3 Jesus is the commander of faith. Let me read *verse 4, 5 of our text*

**4"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come."
5His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."**

This text has got a lot of discussion because Jesus seems to be pretty harsh with his mother. Let me say two things about this. First, it reads harsher in English than it does in Greek.

As a matter of fact, Jesus uses the exact same word when addressing his mother one other time in scripture.... from the cross.

But there is another truth... the emphasis of this text is on the miracle of Jesus. It is not on

Mary. The *New American commentary* states this

Family relationships were not to be the determining factors in Jesus' life. As his brothers later could not force Jesus' timing of his destiny (john 7), so his mother here was not to govern his activity. Jesus was directed not by his mother nor by his brothers but by his relationship to the Father, in whose bosom the son existed. He came to fulfil the Father's purpose for him; namely, he came to make the Father known (1:18). In the Gospel of John the entire life of Jesus was directed toward obeying the Father and fulfilling the hour. In this gospel the ultimate focus of "the hour" is on the glorification of Jesus—his death and resurrection. What may seem like harsh words, therefore, must be understood in the full

context of Jesus' destiny and his obedience to his Father.

What does this tell us about Jesus? Even when he was having fun... he was focused on his Father and the purpose the Father had for him. Again, this is a great lesson for us. Yes, we need to carry out the every day experiences of life. We need to work. We need to be parents. We need to relax and be entertained. We need to go through good times and hard times. But in all we do we need to keep our focus on Jesus and on His calling for us. We are to "Pray constantly" this does not mean we need to have our heads bowed at all times... it means we have to have an awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit with us at all times.

Fact # 4 Jesus is a man of authority and abundance. *John 2:6-8 states....*

6Nearby 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.....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."

These large stone jars stood by the door. They were half full of dirty water used to get the dust off your feet as you entered. Jesus ordered the servants to fill up the jars. He then ordered them to take the contents of the jar to the master of the banquet. Could you imagine the thoughts

of these servants. This man want us to take a cup full of dirty, muddy water to the master to drink. The amazing truth is this... they obeyed. I'm sure it was hard... almost impossible.... but they obeyed.

Obedience is not easy. The burdens we are asked to carry are at times difficult. Earlier I spoke about the consequences of sin even on good Christians people. We see this truth all the time. I spend hours at hospitals. I visit many, many funeral parlors. Over the years I have witnessed first hand many, many tragedies. Obedience is hard at times. Sometimes we just hod on to our lord for dear, dear life with a grip that seems to be slipping... but we hold on.

But the end result is the best life we could possibly have. It was the best wine. It was the richest wine. We are given by our Lord the best life.. The richest life. That is the invitation of our Lord.

Who is our Lord..... A friend who desires the very best for each and every one of us.

Please, do not realize this truth as bared facts... live the truth of this statement. Do not know about our Lord... know our Lord.

AMEN