

“The Best is Yet to Come!”

John 2:1-11

Intro. – In the 60’s TV brought out a new series that was an instant hit. It rapidly grew in its popularity and practically became a cult, using the term loosely. The name of this show? – “Batman” But almost as rapidly as it grew in its popularity, it faded into cancellation.

Do you remember that show? Remember how corny it was with the cartoon like air-clouds whenever there was a fight scene – Pow, Biff, Whack, and Crash. Remember the arch enemies of Batman and Robin – The Riddler, King Tut, The Joker, Egghead, Cat Woman and The Joker? The plot never changed. Batman and Robin, would be captured by one or all of their arch enemies. The Dynamic Duo would be over a boiling tub or oil or some other far out means of getting rid of them... while the villains would be off to commit more crimes. The next week preview would then come up with the announcer recapping what had taken place. Then the announcer would always wrap up by saying, “Tune in next week at the same Bat channel, at the same Bat time – the worst is yet to come!”

The exact opposite is the idea of our text. John writes of the first recorded miracle of our Lord. In this act we are given an indication of three key areas of our Lord...

This passage however, is often at the center of discussion for another matter. Did Jesus really make wine as we know it? No one can prove that He did... My point is this: there are other lessons to be learned from this:

Purpose: to learn the best of our Lord’s blessing are yet to come

I The INTEREST of Jesus

- note with me, Jesus is interested in *ordinary people*

A. Before the Cross Demonstrated This

1. Scene of our text is a wedding in an obscure village:
 - a. who is the bride? – nameless... probably a local girl.
 - b. who is the groom? – nameless... probably a local boy.
 - c. when Christ receives the invitation to attend, note with me He goes – not out of duty or because there were “important” people involved... In no way is Christ condescending; instead, He goes because each person is precious in His sight...
2. What Jesus does here is typical conduct throughout His ministry:
 - a. Jesus simply interested in people...
 - b. never paid attention to people because they were wealthy or of high position:
 - Illus. – George Graves = overalls... new car... paid cash
 - c. the world is interested in “certain folk”... Christ is interested in folk – period!
3. Jesus was interested in this couple... what concerned them concerned Him:
 - a. so when an embarrassing moment arose (no wine – groom expected to furnish, but was probably too poor to do so...
 - b. to save this couple (families) from embarrassment, Jesus worked this miracle.
 - c. in His ministry, Jesus interested Himself in the ordinary joys/sorrows of ordinary folk...

B. After the Cross Demonstrated This

1. John’s account of Peter and other out fishing in John 21. Jesus asked if they had caught anything. Note: He is still interested in their interest. He tells them to do what? Cast their nets on the right side, that they would find fish in doing so.
 - a. Peter had been this route before... They cast their nets and encountered more fish than they could bring on board... It was then Peter asked and found it that it was His Lord – Jesus.
 - b. came to shore and Jesus had prepared what for them? Breakfast – note: the One Who had just conquered the grave/death had enough time to fix breakfast...
2. The same Christ is interested in our daily joys/sorrows... Though we too be common, everyday folk... Jesus is interested in us!

II The PURPOSE of Jesus

- what was the purpose behind Jesus coming?
- A. Was It to Steal?
 1. Some have the idea that Jesus came to be a “killjoy” = make life miserable and steal away all possibility for joy... to cheat us out of fun!
 - Illus. – Frank Cousins at CCCB, my trying to borrow his brand new 1975 Chevrolet Monte Carlo... he proved to be a real killjoy...
 2. This was not the purpose of Jesus, although certainly some churches/church members leave this very impression...
- B. Was It to Restore?
 1. Everything Jesus touched received new glory – Jesus made that which was useless, useful again!
 2. Jesus literally came to change a desert into a garden.
 3. Jesus came to change the world’s garbage and turn it into moral wealth:
 - illus. – Luther Burbank said, “Every weed is a possible flower. Especially the cactus... The reasons it has needles instead of hands full of blossoms is because no one has cared for its soul. But, take this the best armed plant of the vegetation kingdom, love it, and it will drop its swords and bayonets and fill its hands with flowers.”
 4. Certainly this is what Jesus came to do – to seek and to save that which was lost:
 - a. found blundering fisherman... = made a ROCK out of him
 - b. found a thunderbolt... = made an Apostle of love out of him
 - c. found a “rip you off tax collector”... = made him into one who wrote Gospel of Matthew.
 - d. found a demon possessed woman = made her the herald of the resurrection
 - e. found an intellectual brain... a menace... = made him a great missionary
 5. He is the same Christ today with the same purpose = every life, every gift surrendered to Him = His purpose is simply to restore and transform!

III The METHOD of Jesus

- our text indicates how Jesus works His marvelous transformation of souls – yours/mine included!
- A. He Always Uses Others
 1. How did Jesus change water into wine? = no doubt could have changed without any assistance!
 2. Facts are clear – Jesus used other = the servants cooperated permitting Jesus to use them.
 3. To have an abundant harvest, God must send sunshine, rain etc., but, we must prepare the soil and plant the seed... what is true for crops is also true for souls!
 4. Here then is my conviction: God wants this church to be strong and ever advancing... How will this happen? We must do our part for God has chosen not to do it alone!
- B. He Always Supplies the Needs
 - Illus. – how many horror stories could we give telling of disasters simply because there was not enough supplies? Dozens
 - 1. When servants cooperated with Jesus’ request it resulted in 120 to 180 gallons of oinos...
 - 2. Our Lord is Lord of abundance = He wants space, He makes it infinite; He wants stars, He sows them heaven wide; He wants mountains, He makes the Rockies, Andes, Himalayas...
 - 3. As He is in the physical realm, even more so is He in the realm of grace:
 - a. when He offers forgiveness, it’s not a scanty token gift!1.
 - b. when He forgives, He does it abundantly (Isaiah 55:7).
 - c. when He promises strength/encouragement: “*He is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think...*” (Ephesians 3:20).
 - d. our Lord is the Lord of Abundance = method? = never lacks for anything!

C. He Always Meets Needs

1. When headwaiter tasted the wine, he was “amazed” = “*Everyman serves the best first... you have kept the good until last!*”
2. Wasn't this out of the ordinary... doesn't the world always give its best first and then from there on it is downhill?
 - a. Illus. – disillusioned, unenthused, toleraters of life rather than those who live life to His fullest. Isn't this what best describes the world's mindset?
 - b. Illus. – author Harold Warlick : “Those who are most enthusiastic in their youth often wind up the wettest of wet blankets in their old age.”
3. Mature Christians always know the best is yet to come!
 - the “golden years” are never yesterday or even today – they are always yet to come!

Indeed, the best is yet to come for those who are *in Christ* – His method proves it!

Conclusion: There will come a time when all God's faithful will personally be able to say, “Lord, you have kept the best until now!” You know what I mean, don't you?:

- 1) As we continue to grow in our walk with Christ...
 - “Lord, you are keeping the best until later!”
- 2) When we first see the Master, face to face...
 - “Lord, you have kept the best until now!”
- 3) When we wake with His likeness, with new glorified bodies, and we do this with the saints of old...
 - “Lord, you have kept the best until now.!”

The best is yet to come, brethren. Be faithful, grow, win others, build one another up and together we'll say to Him; “Lord, you have kept the best until now!”