THE BEST IS YET TO COME
John 2:1-11

JN 2:1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." JN 2:4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come." JN 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

JN 2:6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. JN 2:7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. JN 2:8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so…"

JN 2:9 “…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 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." 11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Intro

Illus- I Want To Have A Good Year

Now, I don’t know about you, but I want to have a Happy New Year!
- It might sound just a little selfish, but I want things to go my way this year!

Ques- How about you?
- I want the Bo-Jangles girl at the microphone to get my order right the first time
- I want the bill collectors to believe me when I say the check is in the mail (when it really is in the mail)
- I want to get in the Wal-Mart checkout line with other people who really do have 12 items or less
- I want my cell phone to stop dropping my calls in/around Fort Barnwell

Ques- Now, how about you?

Ques- What are the odds we will get what we want?
- Slim to none?

Illus- New Year’s Prayer

I don’t want to be like the man who prayed to God saying,

Dear Lord, So far this year I’ve done well...
- I haven’t gossiped
- I haven’t lost my temper
- I haven’t been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent.
- I’m very thankful for that.

But in a few minutes, Lord, I’m going to get out of bed, and from then on I’m probably going to need a lot more help. Amen

Life happens- and when it does, the quality of our New Year will be known in how we deal with it
- We can make all the resolutions we want
- But when life rains on our parade- we will know how our New Year is going by how we are responding

Real world people and real world problems seem to go hand in hand, and at times they can be frustrating
That’s the real world
And just because we are saved and serving Jesus- doesn’t mean your expectations will be met

But there is one thing you can expect- and it is really all up to you
If you live in Christ, you can expect your life to get better day by day

We are to engage life by going…
- To the dinners and the parties
- To the homes and the banquet halls
- To the marriages and the funerals

All of the highways and byways of life

Jesus did these things, and we should too!

Life is for the living, and for those of us who have the spirit of Christ, we don’t live a defeated life

**Illus- Game Changers**

As for me, I don’t want that. I want to be a game changer, a possibility thinker, a transformer, a doer of good deeds
- I want the checkout lady at the Bo-Jangles to smile
- I talk to people in the checkout line at Wal-Mart
- I open doors for people
- I give money to the beggars on the street
- I teach people about the higher virtues in life
- I try to interest them in theology and God and Jesus and church

I do all I can to make life easier, enjoyable, and profitable for them to improve their lives and their living conditions
- And you don’t have to have a pulpit to do it
- Your very life is evident for all to see
- And whatever they see in you helps them- and blesses you

People need to see that *The Best Is Yet To Come*…..not just read about it in a book or watch it on TV

This passage makes clear that following Jesus means that *The Best Is Yet To Come*.
- But as we journey together we need to be aware of what is happening around us.

We need to know
- How to enter into life and not disengage from it
- How to be present in the places where people can see how we are different

We already know what it means when we say, *The Best Is Yet To Come*, but there are so many who don’t
- They live depressed and defeated lives
- They have no goals
- They judge by external standards- not God’s Holy Word
- And so they miss out on the juice of life

And that is why when we say *The Best Is Yet To Come*, it is our goal to make it so
- Not for us- for we got it
- But others- they need to get it too
I. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE TO GOD (vs. 1-4)

JN 2:1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." JN 2:4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." JN 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

The first thing to note is that Jesus did not depart from the daily routines of life

- He was not holed up in a house somewhere
- Nor did he complain or moralize at what he saw

Instead, he put himself in a position to be available and useful…

1. Availability

Obviously, Mary knew something about her son that others did not know about, for according to scripture this is Jesus’ first miracle

- Despite his challenging retort to her that his time had not come, nevertheless she told the servants present to do whatever he says to do.
- This statement from Mary ought to be burned into our minds: DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU

Illus- Do Whatever He Tells You

Ques- If you have a job, you do what your boss tells you- don’t you?
  - Why?
  - Because you want to get paid, right?

Ques- But how many of you remember what you got paid in the 3rd week of February 1998?
  - Obviously, getting paid is important to you
  - Whether it is a government check or a salary check

You would be pretty upset if you didn’t get your money

Ques- But who is your real boss anyway?
  - Do you know who gives you the job you have?
  - Do you know who plans the means to allow you to support your family?
  - And more soberly- can take away all that you have too?

God, of course!

Ques- When he sees us available, do you know what he does too?
  - He gives you more opportunity too!

To avail ourselves of the very best- we have to do like Mary and go to God

- That makes us available
- And God in return determines what’s suitable

2. Suitability

God always gives us his best- so we never have to worry about what he gives

- It is always the very best thing for us
- But in order to determine what is best for us he checks our availability first, and only then does he give us what’s suitable

Illus- Proper Clothes
Ques: If I came to preach one Sunday wearing a bathing suit, what would you think?
   • Or suppose I am out on the golf course and I was doing like I usually do and hit a bad shot and I start
     peppering my language with the foulest, most obscene language you ever heard, and then I throw my
     gold clubs in the pond

Ques: What would you think?
   • Obviously, you would think what kind of preacher is that?
   • He can’t control his temper

With such a person, God can’t use him much as a testimony until he learns some very basic lessons of getting
along with others

You see, God determines suitability, and as he does he lines things up in such a way to bring the best into your
life
   • Availability and suitability go together
   • You can’t swear like a sailor and then claim to be spiritual
   • You can’t expect others to hang on your every word- but rationalize away God’s Word

For others to get the very best-they have to start with the fundamentals
   • Basic relationship skills
   • Followed by leadership skills- on the front lines of service

Illus- Your Job Is Not Ordinary At All

Now, you might be thinking…

Ques: How does that translate to my ordinary job?
   • Well, the first thing is to see that your job is not ordinary at all

Ques: Is it proper to go to God in business?
   • Can I ask God to be the best little league coach this season?
   • Should I ask God for more money in my life?
   • Is it ok to pray for a new car?
   • Is it right to ask for a husband or a wife?

Ques: Why not?

God determines suitability by assessing availability first.

The servants were available to Mary, Mary was available to Jesus, and it was Jesus who determined the
suitability of the request
   • But availability and suitability is not enough. There is more
   • We must consider responsibility

II. GOD OFTEN MOVES IN A DIRECTION WE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND (vs. 6-8)

JN 2:6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to
thirty gallons. JN 2:7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. JN 2:8 Then he
told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so…"

1. Give God Responsibility

If you give God the glory when things go good, then you can also give God the blame when things don’t go as planned
Ques- Does it matter to you who gets the credit?

Illes- The Flying Frog

Two ducks and an arrogant little frog developed a friendship. All went well for many years until one day their little pond dried up

- The ducks knew they could easily fly to another location
- But what of their friend the frog?

Finally, they came up with a plan

- The ducks got together with the frog, and decided that they would fly with a stick between their two bills
- And the frog would hang on to the stick by his big fat mouth.

For awhile the plan went well until a farmer looked up and saw them in the sky.

The farmer said, “Wow, what a clever idea, I wonder who thought of that?”

Ques- And what do you think the arrogant little frog do?
- He said, “I did”
- And he fell down and died

His pride killed him, because he just had to take the credit!

Christians don’t want the credit- they want God to get it
- But for that to happen, that means we make ourselves available
- And let him do the leading too
- There is no imagining what God can do

2. Act On God’s Direction

Now, here is the point when everything breaks down.
- You see, we serve a big God, and he performs miracles all the time
- But the reason we are not able to see them is because of a lack of faith
- We think of the world working in linear fashion when all along God makes the rules and can change them at will

Illes- The Secrets…

Here is an example that shows how most people think…

- People believe that the very best comes when they get what they want- but Christ came to give his lifer as a ransom for many
- Others believe the very best comes when they are receiving- Jesus says it is more blessed to give
- They believe the best comes when people love and admire them- Jesus says to love others, as he has loved us
- Some believe the best comes when they control and lord over others- Jesus says to surrender your will and your life to him
- Then there are others who believe the very best comes when they are the center of attention- but Jesus says it is better to lose yourself for his sake
Acting on God’s direction is the highest and noblest achievement we can strive for
- That is when the best comes
- And as we bless others- we can’t be helped but be blessed in turn too

III. GOD ALWAYS GIVES THE BEST (vs. 9-11)

JN 2:9 “…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 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." This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Note that the people at the wedding did not even realize that a miracle had been performed…

1. We Realize The Best Through Faith

Ques- To experience the best we must have God’s grace. It is always available, but it is not automatic

Jesus says,

MT 7.21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

God always gives the best- for there is nothing better than God
- He never fails
- And the closer we are to him, the same is true for us too

And the miracle is it gets better day by day!

Conclusion
With the new year upon us, let’s pray for the best to come:
1. Let us be more available to God than ever before
2. Let us let him lead us- rather than the other way around
3. So that with the faith to see- he is giving us the very best

And let us enter into this year with a sense of anticipation and expectation- for we serve a big God- and he wants to give us his very best!

January 1, 2018
Fort Barnwell Baptist Church
Fort Barnwell, NC

Reese Blanchett 2018
Sermon outlines may be used for preaching and teaching purposes
But may not be published or sold.

Disclaimer: I wish to express my gratitude to all the saints before me who are traveling the Narrow Way. Their love and generosity is reflected in my own humble efforts to prepare sermons for the body of Christ. Grace and Peace.