

THE WATER TURNED TO WINE

John 2:1-12

INTRODUCTION

1. John's purpose in his gospel was to produce faith - Jn 20:30-31
 - a. Which he sought to accomplish by recording the "signs" done by Jesus
 - b. Not all of them, but enough to produce faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God
2. The "signs" Jesus performed were miracles...
 - a. Expressions of supernatural, divine power, and
 - b. Designed to attest His unique relationship with God.
 - b. The first sign recorded by John took place shortly after Jesus had acquired His first disciples...
 - c. The setting is a wedding in Cana of galilee which was about 4 miles NE of Nazareth, and SW of the Sea of Galilee...

THE MIRACLE - THE WATER TURNED TO WINE

1. It was on the third day – (Jn 2:1). Was it the third day because
 - a. the third day after Jesus made two more disciples (Phillip & Nathaniel)?
 - b. It took two days to reach Galilee from Judea?
 - c. it was the third day of the week long wedding celebration?
2. Why were they in Cana at a wedding?
 - a. Jesus had wanted to go to Galilee - cf. (Jn 1:43)
 - b. Nathanael was from the city of Cana - cf. (Jn 21:2)
 - c. Maybe it was a family gathering... The mother of Jesus was there – (Jn 2:1)
 - d. But so were Jesus' disciples – (Jn 2:2)
3. But now the wine has run out...
 - a. How is it that Mary knows this?
 - b. Did she have some role of responsibility and authority?
 - c. Running out of wine would have been an embarrassment to Mary, especially, if she were in charge, and the invitation to Jesus and His disciples was a last minute thing.
 - d. Truthfully we can only guess probably because John doesn't think it is material to purpose of this story. Regardless Mary informs Jesus. But take note of his response(Jn 2:4):
4. "Woman What does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come"

- a. Not a term of disrespect in those days – after all he uses it at the cross when he leaves her in the care of the Disciple he loves. (Jn 19:26; 20:15)
- b. It might be implied by its use instead of “Mother” that their relationship of mother and son was changing
- c. This suggests that Mary’s request was more than just a desire for a gift of wine
- d. Despite the subtle rebuke, Mary evidently senses a willingness on Jesus’ part to do something. So she instructed the servants to do whatever He says (cf. Jn 2:5).

This leads us to...

- 1. Beginning with six empty water pots - Jn 2:6
 - a. Normally used for the Jewish rituals of purification - cf. Mk 7:3-4
 - b. Capable of holding twenty or thirty gallons (two or three firkins, KJV) each
- 2. Filled with water - Jn 2:7
 - a. As instructed by Jesus
 - b. Filled to the brim
- 3. A sample drawn and taken to the master of the feast - Jn 2:8
 - a. As instructed by Jesus
 - b. Carried out by the servants
 - c. Apparently what was drawn was still water; it became wine before reaching the guests - cf. Jn 2:9
- 4. The master of the feast tasted the water that was made wine
 - a. Not knowing where it came from, he called the bridegroom
 - b. Telling him that he kept the good wine for last, contrary to normal custom

THE FOCUS FOR TODAY – TRANSFORMATION.

Notice that in this first miracle or sign that is recorded by John Jesus does not choose to:

- a. proclaim good news to the poor; or
- b. proclaim freedom for the prisoners; or
- c. return sight to the blind; or
- d. set free someone who is oppressed.

The word John uses for the changing of the water into wine is a verb and is intended to convey the idea of “to come into being, to happen, to become, being, am born and signifies a change of condition, state or place”

It was also used to describe Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-2)

When an entomologist, uses the term, they envisage the transformation of the caterpillar through the chrysalis stage into the beautiful winged butterfly. It is a

change of form and appearance from ugliness to beauty, but it also suggests a change of habits and manner of life, a complete metamorphosis.

Along with Creating, Revealing, Redeeming and Indwelling; Transforming is one of the purposes of the Holy Spirit in us...

Personally this has always resonated very strongly with me. Personal transformation is a key element to my coming to faith in Jesus.

My life has included a long period of time in darkness. I allowed selfishness, and a warped view of manhood and sexuality and personal rights to not only ruin my life but devastate those I professed to care most for; my children and their mother.

I have shared some of my history with the men at a breakfast. Its not pretty and its not an attempt to compete for the worst sinner award.

It is just what was.

I can tell you truthfully I know the dark side of life. Not because I was a victim but because I chose to live it.

I also chose Christ and I want tell you about the reality of the power of God to Transform individual lives and communities.

There are many examples of personal transformations in the bible,

Moses –

David -

Zaccheus the Tax Collector

And of course we have been listening over several weeks to the transformation of Joseph.

In our culture there are currently a plethora of transformation examples at a cinema near you.

- Hulk
- Iron Man
- Green Lantern
- The transformers
- Most recently, Captain America and the Green Lantern

But most of the movie and comic book transformations are temporary, the hero returns to “normal” and like Superman’s Clark Kent or Spiderman’s Peter Parker hides from the world in plain sight.

BIBLICAL TRANSFORMATION IS A PROCESS, NOT A DESTINATION

However these are not real transformations... certainly not in a theological sense.

Jesus calls us to discipleship to follow in his footsteps. It is clear from the scriptures that you cannot get closer to Jesus unless you are in motion, unless you are willing to move. [spiritual entropy is actually a truth]

You cannot grow closer to others by be ‘unmoveable’. You cannot get where you are going by staying where you are.

Think of it like this:

The motor home has allowed us to put all the conveniences of home on wheels. A camper no longer needs to contend with sleeping in a sleeping bag, cooking over a fire, or hauling water from a stream. Now he can park a fully equipped home on a cement slab in the midst of a few pine trees and hook up to a water line, a sewer line and electricity.

No more bother with dirt, no more smoke from the fire, no more drudgery of walking to the stream. Now it is possible to go camping and never have to go outside.

We buy a motor home with the hope of seeing new places, of getting out into the world.

Yet we deck it out with the same furnishings as in our living room. We may drive to a new place, set ourselves in new surroundings, but the newness goes unnoticed, because we've only carried along our old setting.

The adventure of new life in Christ begins when the comfortable patterns of the old life are left behind.

Saul / Paul – one of the most dramatic transformations of all pleads with the church in Rome... and us:

"...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Rom 12:2)

GOD IS NOT OUT TO MAKE US BETTER, TO IMPROVE US. HE IS OUT TO COMPLETELY TRANSFORM US.

Too many Christians hide in plain sight. They strive to become so much like the world around them they become indistinguishable and hopelessly ineffective. Instead we are meant to live a...

LIFE TRANSFORMED ~ to be more like Jesus ~... in your life, family, school, vocation, business ...to be part of a...

CHURCH TRANSFORMED ~ to be salt and light ~a positive transforming agent in the lives of people; ... a transformational community that transforms the community!

CONCLUSION

We are supposed to be tour guides who bring others to the One who can transform their spirit, be a living expression of God's ability to transform our personalities culture-wide, and preparing for.

In every aspect of our existence, God is at work transforming us as individuals, and as a people; as a church. - That is the GOOD NEWS.

God has not just saved us then abandoned us until some future time when we get an eternal heavenly refit. God is in the process of transforming you.

Faith in Christ is not just some self-help system to 'move you into excellence, from bad to good to better to best.

We are supposed to be agents of hope.

The communities in which we work, rest and play are experiencing rapid and unexpected transitions through economic, climatic and social events which for the most part have brought largely negative outcomes.

At the same time the church community has suffered alongside the secular community, and is now often less able to provide the spiritual lifeblood necessary for the health of the wider community at the very time when it is needed more than ever.

When we hope for something, it is for something we don't have or something not available to us. If we are to bring hope to this world then we need to bring something they don't have.

As Christians the most powerful evangelistic weapon we have is the stories of God in our lives.

The world needs to hear our testimony as much as it needs to hear about miracles and parables. In fact they won't listen to stories from the bible until and unless they see the evidence in our lives.

Unless we are transformed our witness is invalid... worse rejected as counterfeit.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians along these lines...

I do not run with uncertainty but with a definite aim. I do not shadow box beating the air believing that I do not have an adversary.

But like a real boxer I handle my body roughly, I discipline it by hardships, and subdue it, for my greatest fear is that after proclaiming the Gospel of God to others, I should find myself unfit and unable to stand the test myself, and then be rejected as a counterfeit by the very ones I seek to convince. (1Cor 9:26-27)

For me Christian transformation is not an optional extra in the theological armoury... it's the basis of everything.

When I was at my worst, when I saw no future for me I needed the evidence of a Christian life testified to and lived out before me.

There are many more like me out there... the theological proofs mean nothing without the evidence of a transformed life.

We all have those stories to tell.

Stories of God in our lives.

Stories of God redeeming, changing, transforming our lives.

Our stories need to be told alongside the Gospel stories.

Together they are the stories of hope which have the power to redeem the world.