



EXPLORE THE BIBLE[®]

The Gospel of John Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: I Will Raise

Sermon Title: "The Lord of the Vines" (John 2:1-11)

Connection to Session 3

This passage describes the first sign that Jesus does in the Gospel of John. These signs help explain the power and identity of the Messiah. To understand the temple cleansing that is covered in Session 3, one must understand the importance of the signs included by John.

Introduction/Opening

Christianity is often mischaracterized as simply a boring set of rules. However, Jesus came to bring joy. The joy that comes from this sign is a foretaste of the eternal joy to be experienced in the New Heavens and New Earth. This sign shows the power of Jesus as He provides abundantly and cleanses abundantly.

Outline

1. The Wedding (2:1-2)
 - a) In Jewish culture, weddings were more than just a couple of hours on a Saturday. A wedding celebration could last as long as a week. The financial responsibility would fall upon the groom.
2. The Wedding Problem(s) (2:3-5)
 - a) There was a major problem at this wedding: they ran out of wine. This would be a complete social disaster.
 - b) However, the problem of this wedding goes far deeper than just running out of wine. It is no coincidence that verse 11 identified this act of Jesus at the wedding as a "sign." This sign is meant to reveal the nature of the Messiah. Jesus's miracles are not tricks, John calls them signs.
 - c) Jesus's hour. When Mary went to Jesus and asked Him to help, He responded, "My hour has not yet come" (v. 4). What does Jesus mean by this? In the Gospel of John, Jesus's hour is an important theme. The hour is referring to Jesus's death, resurrection, and ascension.
3. The Wedding Cleansing (2:6-10)
 - a) This sign is about more than a mere miracle. It points to what Jesus has come to do. John explains that the water jars "had been set there for Jewish purification" (v. 6). They were probably there for cleaning the utensils and plates for the wedding. However, Jesus

turns the water into wine. Through this sign Jesus is showing how the old is passing away and the new has come.

b) Jesus came to fulfill the old way of purification and provide cleansing for His bride. How does Jesus provide for His bride? By laying down His life. Christ provides lavishly for the salvation of His bride through His blood spilled out at the cross. His death is the means of our purification.

c) Jesus provides lavishly for this wedding feast. Contrasted to the bridegroom who is unable to provide the provisions for his own wedding, Jesus provides lavishly. He is the Messianic bridegroom who has come to provide lavishly for His bride. Revelation 19 gives a glimpse of this Messianic wedding between Christ and His church.

d) Jesus is the only one who can cleanse us of our sins and provide eternal life. Have you trusted in Him?

Conclusion

Christ provides lavishly for the Christian by His blood being spilled out at the Cross. This is how we are purified from our sinfulness. Jesus has come to bring true and eternal joy, not through washing by ceremonial water, but by being washed by His blood.

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