

# **Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of May 13, 2018**

**“A Mother’s Request” Pastor Temple 8:15 & 10:55, Pastor Johnson 9:30**

## **Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)**

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the witness or application points from the previous meeting that you would like to share? (True Bread of Heaven, John 6:25-40)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Do you have any particular memories from your own wedding reception or one of a friend that made the event more special?

## **Review the Sermon (15 min)**

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, John 2:1-12. As you go through the discussion questions, it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there,<sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”<sup>4</sup> “Woman,<sup>[a]</sup> why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”**

**They did so,<sup>9</sup> 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 <sup>10</sup> 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.” <sup>11</sup> What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. <sup>12</sup> After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- The proximity of the small town of Cana to Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth (4 miles away), and the invitation to the wedding being extended to the disciples as well, suggests a strong relationship

between Jesus' family and the bride or the groom's family. To what degree did Jesus' providing wine for the wedding spare the family holding the wedding public shame or loss?

- Why do you believe Mary the mother of Jesus was so adamant about resolving this awkward situation?
- Jesus' turning water into wine was the first of seven signs in John that are intended to move people toward faith in Christ. Who at the wedding would have been in a position to know about the nature of the miracle?
- What does this say about the vantage point of those who follow Jesus' commands in obedience?
- How might the particular vessels used to hold the water have significance in interpreting the meaning of this miracle? How does wine in the Christian tradition also serve a similar purpose?

### **Another Related Scripture (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read aloud 2 Kings 4:1-7.
- Elisha showed compassion to this widow in financial trouble who was about to lose her sons to indentured servitude. How does Elisha's offer to help start with what she had?
- How might the widow's pride have kept her from following through on what Elisha was asking her to do?
- How did her actions show evidence of her faith?
- What are the points of similarity and difference between this scripture and John 2?
- In Jesus' choosing this setting of a bride and groom and the wine of a wedding banquet as the first of His miraculous signs, beyond helping someone in a miraculous way, what might He have been intending to communicate about the kingdom of God or foreshadowing His role and identity within it?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- Jesus chose to incorporate the obedience of ordinary people in this miracle. What hope does this offer us this week as those seeking to obey the commands of Jesus, to love God and to love people?
- In what ways might God be waiting on our cooperation?
- How do you respond to the following statement by J.C. Ryle. "Duties are ours- events belong to God. So it is ours to fill the water pots; it is Christ's to make the water into wine."

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- Many times people might not think religion and parties go together. Yet, in this case, Jesus is at a party and even making it better and go longer through providing choice wine. How have you had opportunity lately to bear witness to your faith in social events?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.