

2017– Unexpected Provision & Joy

I. A Year of Breaking Off and Breaking Through

A. Knowing Him - People of Presence

Invitation to the Prize

Phil 3.7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

10 ***that I may know him*** and the **power** of his resurrection, and may share his **sufferings**, becoming like him in his **death**, **11** that **by any means possible** I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but **I press on to make it my own**, because **Christ Jesus has made me his own**. **13** Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But ***one thing I do: forgetting*** what lies behind and ***straining forward*** to what lies ahead, **14** I **press on** toward the **goal for the prize** of the upward **call¹ of God** in Christ Jesus.

We PRESS ON to make it our own, because He made us His own.

One thing: Forgetting what is behind **AND Straining forward**

Trauma; disappointment; offense

B. Believers - Overcome the Culture

1 John 5.4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—

¹ **κλήσις**: to urgently invite someone to accept responsibilities for a particular task, implying a new relationship to the one who does the calling — ‘to call, to call to a task.’

our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except **the one who believes** that Jesus is the Son of God?

14 **And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.** 15 **And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.**

II. The First Sign – The Wedding Feast

John 2.1 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the **mother** of Jesus **was there.** 2 **Jesus** also was **invited to the wedding** with his disciples.

3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, **“They have no wine.”** 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”

Weddings are big deals. New life, joyful. Lots of planning and preparation and lots of joyful, nervous confusion. Sometimes things get overlooked. The caterer makes a mistake. Sometimes relatives and friends fall through.

A really big deal in the lives of the Jewish people at that time. Exuberant, dramatic, a parade through the village under a chuppah. Open house for the guests. Wedding feasts often lasted seven days. The groom’s family was responsible.

It was possible in certain circumstances to take legal action against the man who failed to provide an appropriate wedding gift. The groom’s family here might have been involved in a financial liability for failing to provide adequately for their guests.

It would be a stigma on the marriage. No wine. Poor planning.

The wedding party’s running out of wine may be seen as symbolizing the spiritual barrenness ...wine (never drunkenness) as a sign of joy and God’s blessing.

P^s 104.15 ... wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine

and bread to strengthen man's heart.

- Prov 3.9 Honor the LORD ...;
 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty,
 and your vats will be bursting with wine.

The wedding party's running out of wine is a manifestation of **lack**, insufficiency,

Mary notices, and feels compassion. Like a good mother, she is not put off by her Son's response.

- 5 His **mother** said to the servants, "**Do whatever he tells you.**"
 6 Now there were **six stone water jars** there for the Jewish rites of **purification**, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
 7 Jesus said to the servants, "**Fill the jars with water.**" And they **filled them up *to the brim.*** 8 And he said to them, "Now **draw some out** and **take it** to the master of the feast." So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast **tasted the water now become wine**, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "**Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.**"

- 11 This, the **first of his signs**, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and **manifested his glory**. And his disciples believed in him.

The water in the six ... water jars (of 20 to 30 gallons each) was used for Jewish purification rites before and after meals.

Probably the water jars were outside. The master of the banquet, in charge of the festivities, would not know he was drinking from the purification jars. **For a Jew this would be unthinkable.** The servants dipped out the water, which had become wine.

III. The Kingdom Has Come to The Wedding Feast!

Moses turned water into blood! - judgment

Jesus turned water into wine! - **JOY!** To the BRIM - a creative miracle, One blessing after another, more than enough. A huge wedding gift! The unclean made clean!

Unlike John the Baptizer - out in the wilderness, Jesus is in the party, in the midst of the community,

Sanctifying marriage!

The miracle is in the **distribution**, the **participation**, like the loaves and fishes.

The Source isn't what we would expect. Unexpected Joy and Provision

IV. Invitation to the Miraculous!

Anyone run out of joy? Fallen short on your preparation?

They have no wine.

Feel unworthy, unsuitable?

Filled to the Brim!

Water into Wine.

Unexpected Provision & Joy

More than you could ask or imagine!

The Impossible from the Inappropriate or Inadequate