

## Jesus' Wedding Gift

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication: *Amia Sarang Chugh*. Daniel & Yaeseul (ya-sool). (Eleazer)
- B. Slide3-6 Andrew L: Thanksgiving Eve Service/Office closed Thurs. Foundations Class. Women's Xmas celebration.
- C. Brian: Children at Risk *today 3-5pm*. Calvary Magazines *in info booth today*.
- D. My Trip Highlights:
  1. Slide6 Haiti: Dave/Tracy Hinche Firefighters. Slide7 UPG & Prayed for me.
  2. Slide8 Myanmar: I told Fran/Partners CM is picking up the tab on this trip.
    - a) CM you were really generous. We fed a whole *township*, 980 families (500 bags of rice/veggies) [*when is not living in a concentration camp worse than...?*]. No one allowed to help them. Only Partners does. I let them know *I am a leader from US & that my group knows about them, loves them, & is praying for them*.
    - b) Slide9 We fed a whole *camp*, Than Dohli Village 497 bags of rice/veggies.
    - c) Cold season coming, we bought 141 families *1dble&1single blanket* each.
    - d) Slide10 Provided *eye & medical care* for Zorohato (65 yrs old widow).
    - e) 2 *pastors from up north* - 2 day travel to get to us. (provided rice for 28 families & both of their families). [I spent \$19,937, so if you're looking for a practical way to help in the beginning stages. Ear-mark *RO*]
    - f) Slide11,12 A little boy & his baby sister (from statistics to story). [11/28...*Story*]

### II. Slide13 Intro: Jesus' Wedding Gift

- A. After first chapter, the disciples are ready to take the world by storm. They're ready to *watch heaven open w/angels coming & going* (1:51). So Jesus said, *follow Me...we're going to a local wedding. A...wedding???*
- B. If you're ever going to *launch a brand* in business. Or, if you decide to *run for a political office*. Your 1st presentation is very carefully controlled to convey *exactly/precisely* what **you** are about.

1. What committee would have come up with *Jesus' inaugural sign* to be...  
*a miraculous solution to a mere social embarrassment.* (Reynolds Price via Tim Keller)
    - a) Jesus for your 1st act...*use all your Almighty power and wipe egg off the faces of 2 teenagers getting married.*
  2. The *quintessential signifier* of what Jesus is all about...is not about *someone who is sick, or demon possessed, or leprous.* But it's to *bring in the best wine to keep a party going? Just to help the social embarrassment of 2 teenagers.* (albeit a shame/honor society)
    - a) So Jesus does 2 things here: he takes away *shame* & brings *joy*. [fruit of the sp is JOY]
- C. So we'll read our 12 verses, and start w/the end, so we don't miss the reason/purpose.
- D. (11) The beginning of signs - Gospel of John uses *sign* rather than **miracle**.
1. Signs served as **authentication** for Jesus' **nature & mission**.
  2. John is setting up a number of *signposts/clues* to take us through the story.
  3. **Signs are moments when heaven & earth intersect w/each other.**
  4. **A sign is a miracle that points beyond itself to a major truth about God, made known through Jesus Christ.**
    - a) Other sources outside the bible, say that *Jesus performed miracles when He was a child*. This refutes that..this was *the beginning of signs/miracles*.
  5. Jesus is saying, I'm the *True Master of the Banquet*. I've come to bring *festival Joy*. That's why I use this as my first sign. I've come to bring you *a wedding, a wedding feast, wedding joy*.
  6. Listen to the prophecy about Messiah in Is.25:6-8 ESV  
*On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.* [Rev.19:9 Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb]

### III. Slide14 THE WEDDING INVITATION (1,2)

- A. Weddings were a prolonged feast usually lasting 7 days.
- B. The mother of Jesus - *Mary*...John never uses her name.
- C. First miracle is in a home. Jesus brings *joy* to a home.
- D. Wherever you go...just *invite* Jesus to go with you. *He's not a wedding crasher.*
  - 1. **Invite** Jesus wherever you go.
  - 2. He'll turn your *Toyota* into a **Tabernacle**. Your *Hundai* into a **Holy of Holies**.

### IV. Slide15 WHEN THE WINE RUNS OUT (3)

- A. **When the wine runs out** (when joy, exhilaration, the excitement of life runs out. *grey days*)
- B. Not a question, a statement, *They have no wine*. She knew where to go with problems.
  - 1. Mary can't solve the problem herself...so she takes her problem to **Jesus**.
    - a) We sing, *Mary Did You Know?* - uh yah she knew! She knew right where to go when *the problems of life* arise...you take them to **Jesus**.
- C. Slide16a-f I believe we should be *followers of Mary* [point your Catholic friends to follow what Mary says]
  - 1. **Here's what I mean**...Mary doesn't have a lot of words in Scripture...**but** here they are.
    - a) Lk 1:34 *how can this be?* [*didn't understand* Gabriel, regarding her being pregnant]
    - b) Lk1:38 *Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.* [to Gods messenger Gabriel...*submission*]
    - c) Lk1:46-55 Mary's Magnificat, *My soul magnifies the Lord, & my spirit has rejoiced in God my savior.* [Mary needed a...*Savior*]
    - d) Lk.2:48 Jesus at age 12, *Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously. And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.* [Mary again *didn't understand*]
    - e) And here in Jn.2:5 Mary says, *Whatever He says to you, do it!*
      - (1) **These are the last words recorded by Mary**...that's why I said we should be *followers of Mary*. (Like when Paul said, *be an imitator of me*)

2. **Weird:** After 30 years, Jesus never vindicated His mom. (ie. *It **was** a virgin birth*)
- a) It sounds like, we are all going to have to live w/people around us *not understanding* something in our past. *It doesn't always get cleared up.* Be content, Jesus knows.

## V. Slide17a **THE COST OF HIS WEDDING GIFT (4)** *what time is it?*

- A. The initial refusal emphasizes that *Jesus does not owe anything to anyone*, even His own mother.
1. **My hour** - the hour of His death. *So He's saying...*  
*Mom, I'm not ready to die. You want me to do something for their **shame**?  
 You want me to do something to bring about true **joy**? Oh mom, I will, but I  
 have to **die** to accomplish it.*
- B. Slide17b **My hour has not yet come** - Jesus, *never early, never late.*
1. 7:30 *Therefore they sought to take Him; but know one laid a hand on Him, because **His hour had not yet come.***
2. 8:20 *These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for **His hour had not yet come.***
- C. Slide17c **Then**, the hour that mattered for eternity.
1. 12:23 ***The hour has come** that the Son of Man should be glorified.*
2. 12:27,28 *Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from **this hour**? But for this purpose I came to **this hour**. Father, glorify Your name.*
3. 17:1 *Father, **the hour has come.** Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.*
- D. His words in vs.7...*start His 3 year-countdown-timer.*

## VI. Slide18a **THE SERVANTS OBEDIENCE (5-8)**

- A. (5) **Whatever He says to you, do it** - [*J.Sidlow Baxters mom* wrote this on the fly-leaf of his bible on his 16th b-day] **Whatever He says to you, do it!**
1. **Moms, what a great life-motto** for your children. **Actually** it's a great life-motto for **ALL** of us. **It reminds us...**
- a) Slide18b Our obedience is to be **Entire**. *Whatever He says*, speaks of scope & range

- b) Our obedience is to be **Exclusive**. *Whatever He says*, to the exclusion of all others, if they differ from Him.
  - c) Our obedience is to be **Specific**. *Whatever He says to you, do it*. Not just something like it, or something part-way, or something supposedly equivalent...but **IT**.
2. Let *whatever He says to you, do it* be our governing-motto for: *your choice in your career, choice in love, choice in dating, choice in marriage*.
- B. Apparently a large wedding feast... as Jesus made 6 water pots @ 20/30 gallons each = **120-180 gallons**. At servings of 1 cup each, this would provide **2,400 servings** (& the feast had been underway for some time).
- C. Slide 18c 3 Aspects of obedience from the servants:
- 1. They obeyed **Immediately** - *and they filled them up*.
  - 2. They obeyed **Completely** - *They filled them, to the brim* (Making it impossible for the miracle to have been a deception).
  - 3. They obeyed **Successively** - each new instruction as it came: *fill. draw. take it*.
- D. As purification jars we know the jars would have been cut from single blocks of stone.
- 1. **Stone** was used because it did not convey ritual *impurity*.
  - 2. The use of the jars for a purpose other than ritual purification would have rendered the jars temporarily unclean and unusable for ritual purposes.
    - a) Which seems to be a sign that **God is doing a new thing** from within the old Jewish system, bringing purification to Israel and the world, in a whole new way.
- E. Wine represents joy in the OT.
- 1. Change water (the ordinary) into wine (life in the spirit).
  - 2. *Lord, less water & more wine in my life*.

## VII. Slide 19 JESUS' WEDDING GIFT (9,10)

- A. *Jesus' Wedding Gift*...and what a gift it was!

- B. **Master of the feast** - It was his duty to preserve order, to maintain liveliness among the guests, to assign each one his proper place, to decide which proportion of water should be mixed with the wine, how much each of the company was to drink...and the tasting of the wine before it was offered to the guests.
- C. **God saved the best for last...His Son!** Like the parable of the Vinedresser in Mark 12. Vinedresser wanted to receive fruit from His field. *Sent a servant (was rejected). Sent another. And many more (beating some, killing some).* Finally it says, *Therefore still having 1 son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, They will respect my son.*
1. **The best for last...Jesus!** - The real issue at the wedding was not the wine running out, **but who** replenished it.
- D. **The transformation from water to wine can also signify the effect that Jesus can have on your life today.**
1. He came that **we might have life in all its fullness.**
  2. **With a touch**, Jesus can take **the murky water of our lives**, so in need of purification, **&** transform it into **fine wine**.
    - a) I guess **you can't** put *new wine into old wineskins*, **but you can** into *old waterpots*.
    - b) **We** are those old waterpots. The human heart, *hard & empty*. **Paul calls us vessels.**
    - c) The sinners life may look good on the outside **but** God sees it *empty & useless...* **until** He is able to work *a divine miracle*.
  3. **Pray through this story w/your own failures and disappointments in mind**, remembering that **transformation only came** when you took **Mary's** words seriously: **Do whatever He tells you.**