

Week of April 7, 2019

<u>This Week's Focus</u>: Jesus purchased and purified his Bride, the Church, by his all-sufficient atoning work on the cross so that we would experience joy with him forever.

This Week's Text: John 2:1-11

"He [Jesus] is the all-providing Bridegroom, he never, never, never fails to give us what we need. The life-giving wine of his death in our place never runs out. He is the perfect, all-providing husband to his church." **John Piper**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What does it say about Jesus that he chose an obscure and seemingly unimportant town to perform his first "sign?" How does it make you feel, and does it cause you to think differently about those in your community?
- What was the problem at the wedding feast? Why did Mary bring this to Jesus' attention, and what does this teach us about her? What does wine often symbolize in the Bible (Psalm 104:14-15; Isaiah 5:11)?
- Why did Jesus intentionally distance himself from his familial relationship with Mary? What "hour" or event was Jesus referring to? Reference John 12:23-24. What's significant about Jesus linking his crucifixion, glory, and a wedding feast (Isaiah 25:6; Revelation 19:6-7, 21:2)?
- Have you ever had the impression that following Christ and living out the Christian life was an impediment to joy? How can this text help correct that view?
- What did Jesus "do" in order to perform this miracle? Why do you think Jesus deliberately
 chose to use Jewish purification jars to perform his miracle? What were these jars typically used
 for? Reference Mark 7:3-4. Discuss how Jesus' miracle showed the insufficiency of selfcleansing in the work of salvation.
- What's significant about the fact that Jesus instructs the servants to fill the jars "to the brim?"
 Are you reminded daily of the good news of Jesus' sufficient and abundant grace?

What was the ultimate purpose and result of Jesus' miracle at the wedding at Cana?
 Reference verse 11. What is the glory of God? Where did Jesus reveal his glory to the entire world? Does the magnificent glory of God propel you to demonstrate and declare the gospel to those in your community and spheres of influence?