

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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John 2 - Part I, The Marriage Supper

John 2:1-2: 1. And the third day there was a marriage (or, wedding) in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2. And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. For years, I have wondered why the Holy Spirit would have John mention the “third day.” Jesus said, ...*the third day I shall be perfected* (Lk 13:32), referring to his death and resurrection (cp Mt 16:21; Mk 10:34). However, I am inclined to think there is more to John’s remark. Because of the distance, it would take two days to get back to Nazareth, and there was a wedding the next day, to which Jesus and his disciples were invited. Count Jesus’ baptism as day 1 and then apply these things to our spiritual experience today; the next day (2), the Spirit says, *Behold the Lamb who takes away sin* (Jn 1:29-35); We come to realize that Jesus is truly the Son of God and the Spirit of the Truth, the Comforter, then comes the temptations in our wilderness thinking; the next day (3), we tell others to *Behold the Lamb of God* (Jn 1:36-42) and three others join us in the message; days 4 & 5 we travel to Nazareth ^(note 1), and along the way three more disciples join us (Jn 1:43-51). On day 6, we accept the invitation to the wedding feast and go to Cana (h7071 a place of reeds), a town named after a river on which it resides, where there is an abundance of reeds.

When this story is considered as an allegory and the symbols understood, it can be seen as describing our walk with Christ. It matches the days of creation, day 4 being when the sun (Christ) and moon (law) are put in place in our understanding; day 5 we begin to listen to the Holy Spirit; and day six we are made into the image of God. A river is a stream of thought (Pr 18:4), and reeds are messages. Literally, reeds are used for writing pens (3Jn 1:13) and as rods for measuring (Eze 40:3; Rv 11:1; Pr 22:15). Messages of truth measure us to see if we will accept them or not; which when we do, that understanding is written on the heart. Being made in the image of God inwardly is not something that happens simply because you believe the truth; change happens as you act on it and by experience as you share the truth with others. Jesus’ ministry brought him to the cross where he had to trust the Father - i.e. he rested in the Father’s judgments - he entered the Sabbath rest (day 7). The depth of the cross cannot be understood without understanding that there is only one God - the Father, and one Lord - Jesus Christ (1Cor 8:6); and salvation is knowing them both (Jn 17:3). It is the Son who reveals the Father. When Peter recognized that Jesus was the “anointed One” it was the Father who revealed it to him - not any man (Mt 16:15-17) - It is same today. It is the full understanding of the cross that will perfect you.

This is the message to those who reach the Laodicea experience: **Revelation 3:20-21:** 20. *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him and he with Me.* 21. *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame and have sat down with My Father in His throne* (MKJV). The wedding supper takes place BEFORE we enter the next world; It is a spiritual meal. The invitation is for now! God will give you a message, or He may send a messenger. Listen to the still small voice - Is it the serpent (self) whispering to you, or is it the voice of the Spirit? There is always a way provided out of the temptation, if you consider the message. We must see the Father and Son, and we must see and acknowledge the self of who we are without Christ and what we can be in Christ.

John 2:3-4: 3. *And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.* 4. *Jesus saith unto her, [what is that to you and to me, woman]? mine hour is not yet come.* The woman said, *They have no wine*; Jesus said, *My hour is not yet come.* What did Jesus mean by his answer? **John 7:30:** *Then they sought to*

take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come. **John 8:20:** *These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.* Then, the night of the third Passover: **John 13:1:** *Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.* Mary was concerned that the guests had no literal wine; Jesus was relating the spiritual wine to be revealed by the experience of the cross, which is understood by those who consider it. Jesus stated: **Luke 9:22-23:** *22. The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. 23. And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.* Study and consider the cross daily in order to understand, then live out the principles revealed. Jesus portrayed all humanity as that serpent (self) on the pole; you have a crown of thorns (guilt that pricks); you have been beaten (stripes) down with your own sins and those which others have committed against you; and you are nailed, or fastened to the sin nature (wooden cross) because you have been taught so much error. And yet, God is not keeping a record of all your sins; He loves you unconditionally and is telling you to look at what He allowed to happen to His only begotten Son. Not one of us has done anything as bad as to kill the Son of God, and yet, Jesus said to them, *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do* (Lk 23:34). If he could forgive them, he can forgive you.

John 2:5-11: *5. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. 6. And there were set there six water pots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. 7. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the water pots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. 8. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. 9. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, 10. And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. 11. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.*

Six stone water pots: Six is the number of a man, a water pot is symbolic of a person with a stony heart, and water is thought. The stone pots were only partly full of water according to the manner of the purifying of the Jews. When I joined a church, I was “partly filled” with ideas about the cross. They set forth the *good wine*; and when I accepted those teachings, *then that which is worse*. **Micah 2:11:** *If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.* In the Bible, wine, like solid food, is a symbol of a more advanced understanding than milk (cp Heb 5:12). Instead of softening or breaking my heart of stone, what they taught (bad wine) put fear in me. i.e. God was keeping a record of all my sins, and if I did not do right, He would destroy me with fire in the end. But God is love (1Jn 4:8) and He IS NOT taking an inventory of our sins (2Cor 5:19); Love does not impute evil! (1Cor 13:5). We all need the *wine that makes glad the heart of man* (Ps 104:15), not that which makes us afraid of God.

It is the servants of God - YOU, who by your testimony and sharing fill others with the wine with which you have partaken. *And he (Jesus) saith unto them (servants), Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.* The phrases *governor of the feast* and *ruler of the feast* are from the same Greek word. It is someone in charge of the of the festivities; a person, apparently chosen by the bridegroom to taste the food and drink before it is served to guests. *You have kept the good wine until now* - The statement fits perfectly from a historical perspective and from a spiritual perspective. In Old Testament times, the Son of God presented an inaccurate view of God's love in such incidents as by bringing the flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, a plague on the Israelites because they asked for flesh to eat (Num 11:31-33), etc. The understanding of the cross is the good wine and fully

reveals how God has always loved you; He is not keeping an inventory of your sins; and humanity is the reason the Son was brought forth. **2Timothy 1:7-10:** 7. *For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline.* 8. *Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God* (or, the ability of God to love you just as you are); 9. *who saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before times eternal,* 10. *but hath now been manifested by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and incorruption^(g861) to light through the gospel..* (RV). Our calling was before times eternal, or before anything or anyone except God existed. This version was used because it has the correct translation for the Greek word *aphtharsia*^(g861), translated in the K. J. and others as *immortality*^(g110) {also translated wrong in Rom 2:7}. The life mentioned here is that eternal life (Jn 5:24-26) available to any believer right now. Those walking in the light of truth have eternal life, and if faithful to the end will obtain immortality, which will be given at the resurrection.

Summary: The wedding is metaphor of us becoming the bride of Christ (Isa 62:5) and dining with him as we receive spiritual food and the revelation of God's love through His only begotten Son. Jesus told Nicodemus: **John 3:12-17:** 12. *If I have told you earthly things (easily seen), and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things (hidden, revealed by the Spirit)?* 13. *And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.* 14. *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:* 15. *That whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.* 16. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* 17. *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.* Let us leave the milk and seek the good wine, amen.

Note 1 (page 1, paragraph 1): Apparently, Nazareth of Galilee had a bad reputation for bad things and bad people. It is indicated that the Jews missed the prophecy when they expressed doubts that Jesus was the Messiah (Jn 7:41, 52). This also biased Nathanael when first invited to come, see and hear the Messiah: **John 1:45-46:** 45. *Philip found Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.* 46. *And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.* However, when Jesus addressed Nathanael, he was convinced that Jesus was the expected prophet: **John 1:47-51:** 47. *Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"* 48. *Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."* 49. *Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"* 50. *Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these."* 51. *And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."* (RSV)

From Vincent Word Studies: *Jewish writings tell of distinguished rabbis who were accustomed to rise early and pursue their studies under the shade of a fig tree.* This was likely because they saw the fig tree in a figurative way. Joel prophesied of a mighty nation which had removed the bark of the fig tree, leaving it naked (Joel 1:7, 12). Then there is the promise in Micah 4:1-4 concerning the house/temple of the Lord being established in Zion, and how that every man will be called from under his fig tree (Zech 3:10). Perhaps Nathanael was studying and praying under a fig tree at the time Phillip called him to go see Jesus, and Jesus was impressed by the spirit as to where he was and what he was doing, perhaps even studying Jacob's ladder.

Nazareth means "guarded one," which is an appropriate title for Jesus. The Father guarded him as a human being until his mission could be accomplished, and the Father's love for all humanity could be expressed through His only begotten Son.