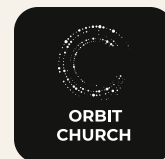


Why Now?

2024-07-29 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 2:1-11

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

At a wedding in Cana, the wine ran out. In that honor culture, this was a disaster: running out as a host carried a shame close to stealing. Jesus's hour had not yet come, but the need was reason enough for him to act. Pastor Matt drew out the pattern. God shows up when people reach the end of what they have. Mary did two things worth copying: she stated the need to Jesus, and she told the servants to do whatever he said. And the jars had to be filled to the brim before anything changed. The vessel God wants to fill for the benefit of others is a person. It is you.

To get started

- When did you last run out of something you were counting on?

Looking back at the message

The honor and shame background is what makes the miracle make sense. Explain it before you discuss it.

- 1 In that honor culture, running out of wine as a host was nearly as shameful as stealing. How does that background change the way you read this story?
- 2 Pastor Matt said we take real needs to people who cannot meet them, spouses, pastors, friends, when only Jesus can. Where have you done that?
- 3 Pastor Matt said the best advice he can give anyone is what Mary told the servants: do whatever he tells you. What has God told you that you have not done yet? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 2:1-11. Verse 5 and verse 7 are the two moments that matter.

- 4 Read John 2:1-5. Mary does not ask Jesus for anything. She just states the problem. What does Jesus say back, and what does Mary do next?
- 5 Verse 7 says the servants filled the jars to the brim. Why do you think the text bothers to mention how full they were?
- 6 Verse 11 calls this the first sign that revealed his glory. Who actually saw what happened, and who just enjoyed the wine?
- 7 Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What is the connection between running out and God's power? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The vessel image is the application: God fills a person so others benefit.

- 8 The jars were filled to the brim so the wedding guests could benefit. If God filled you up, who around you would benefit?
- 9 Where are you at the end of what you have right now?
- 10 Have you actually brought that need to God in prayer, or have you only worried about it in his general direction?
- 11 What is the uncomfortable thing you suspect God is telling you to do? OPTIONAL

The group together

The servants knew where the wine came from and the guests did not. Quiet obedience is part of this.

- 12 Only the servants knew where the wine came from. What does that tell you about what servants get to see?
- 13 Whose need in this group could the group actually meet?
- 14 How do you tell the difference between a need only God can fill and one that people can help with?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What need will you bring to God this week, and what will you do if he answers with an instruction?

You might pray about

- For those who have run out of what they were relying on
- For obedience before understanding
- For God to fill us in a way others can see