

Jesus the Miracle Worker John 2:1-11

- Does God want us to be happy? Does He want us to enjoy life?
- As Christians, are we allowed to party and have fun?
- Can we experience joy this side of heaven, w/out feeling guilt or shame?

Does anyone else answer “Yes”, but hesitate a bit in the response? Why?

Why can't God's gracious earthly provisions be enjoyed here & now, without minimizing our greatest heavenly joy that is still yet to come?

Jesus came to earth to inaugurate a heavenly kingdom that transcends this earthly life, but that doesn't mean we have to flee this world and reject it's joys, or wait in some kind of depressive state until Jesus returns!

The Christian life does not have to be marked by a dull & joyless existence!

John 2:1-11 is a great example of how Jesus not only cared about the joys of heaven, but also cared about the joys of earth, and the experience of them!

Did you know that...

- Jesus went to parties! These wedding festivals could last a week!
- Jesus took the time to enjoy certain pleasures that are limited to our earthly experience! Example: Marriage! Mark 12:25
- Jesus didn't seclude Himself from things where sin could be present! Example: Drinking! Drunkenness is a sin, not alcohol consumption! There are many Scriptures that speak of wine as a source of joy!
- Jesus cared about people's earthly happiness, joy, and reputation... as well as their eternal state! This wedding banquet reveals this so well!

Why is this important to know/remember? Because sometimes we lose the importance of Jesus' immanence, at the expense of His transcendence! ???

Jesus is “God with us”, “God for us”, God's love & compassion manifested! He is more than just a cosmic power that came to earth to offer us eternal salvation! He cares about the lesser things of our lives as well!

How can we know that for sure? The miracles of Jesus! How many of the miracles Jesus performed, that established His divine power, were miracles that met people in their earthly need first?

If the miracles of Jesus were only about His transcendence, they would have been all miracles like “walking on water”! But Jesus showed His divinity by meeting the needs of others & enhancing their earthly joy!

Just consider the miracles recorded in John's gospel:

- 1) Changing water into wine (2:1-11) – The miracle was for the sake of the bride & groom. Jesus' time had not yet come, but He did it anyway!
- 2) Healing of the Roman official's son at Capernaum (4:46-54)
- 3) Healing of the sick/lame man at the pool of Bethesda (5:1-15)
- 4) Feeding of the multitude (6:5-13)
- 5) Walking on water (6:16-21) – but John doesn't explicitly call this a sign!
- 6) Healing of the man born blind (9:1-7)
- 7) Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1-44)

Look at all the miracles of Jesus in the gospels & you'll see the trend. Jesus displayed His glory by meeting the earthly needs/desires of the people!

And He not only met the needs/desires, He far exceeded them to show the extravagance of His grace. Examples: The abundant catch of fish, the multiplying of the loaves and fish, the 180 gallons of wine!

Jesus is a miracle worker, and His miracles reveal much about His nature – He is all powerful, but He is also extremely loving, and abundantly gracious!

But sometimes His nature & miraculous provisions are unbeknownst to us! Only the servants, and the disciples who were with Jesus, knew what happened that day in the turning of the water into wine!

Jesus provided them with continued happiness and joyful celebration, when public embarrassment & humiliation could have easily been the alternative! May we never take for granted the unseen miracles of Jesus in our lives!

But may we also never miss the deeper meaning of the miracles Jesus performs as well! Yes He met legitimate needs, He established His glory, but the miracles of Jesus also pointed to our greatest need – Christ Himself!

There is a wedding celebration that will far exceed the one in Cana. There is a wine that is even sweeter than the one they consumed on that day! A time is coming when our joy will never run dry because the source of it will not be in miracles, but in the eternal presence of the miracle worker!

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