

Sunday January 24
An Eventful Wedding
John 2:1-12

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,

²**and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.**

³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴**"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."**

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶**Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons**

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸**Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,**

⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside

¹⁰**and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."**

¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

¹²**After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.**

Good Morning First Baptist Members and Friends. Does anyone in here have a reason to shout – make some noise for God – lift up holy hands in praise? Has God done anything for you since we were last in this place? Well, I don't know about you but I have a reason to praise Him. He kept me this past week. He let me spend time with my grandsons. He allowed me to teach the classes I had prepared. He confirmed a prayer request. I have a reason to praise Him this morning. If you have a reason to praise Him stand on your feet, lift holy hands, thank Him for your coming and your going; your waking and your sleeping; and finally thank Him for sending Jesus. Jesus, Mary's baby boy; Jesus, who has gone to prepare a place for me; Jesus who is coming back for his holy and righteous church. Jesus.

For the past two Sunday we have been looking at marriage. First the love, courtship, and marriage as recorded in the Song of Solomon. The title of that sermon was

GOD'S KIND OF LOVE

Then we considered the God ordered marriage of Hosea to Gomer. In each of these lessons we dealt with the apparent story and then the underlining story each time seeking to hear a Word for God. At the conclusion of the sermon on 2nd Sunday I ended with **God is love! God loves you! God will take you back!** and that became the sermon title for 3rd Sunday.

Now here we are on 4th Sunday looking at another wedding, the wedding at Cana. I am sure that there are minds greater than mine who have pondered just how many applications can be drawn from this story, this story that sets the stage for the first miracle of Jesus. I found 342 on one sermon site alone and only two of them had the same sermon title. But as I looked at the passage and prepared for this teaching moment I asked God to give me what you needed to hear – what we here at First Baptist Park Forest needed to hear as we wait for God to move and do something new in this place! What we need as we work on being transformed.

I need for you to pray with me and for me as I wrestle with this text and use this theme:

WHEN YOU RUN OUT RUN TO JESUS!

SHALL WE PRAY!

Father God thank you for all that you have done, are doing, and will do in the life of First Baptist Church of Park Forest. We come now to this teaching moment and ask that you lift us into your presence. We need to hear a Word that will enlighten, encourage, and help us to endure the troubles of this world. Abba, I ask that you use me to bring the word to the people in such a way that it helps them toward transformation – transformation into the people you have called them to be. Abba, please remove the murmurings of other voices from our minds and allow us to be fully focused on you and your Word. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen and Amen.

WHEN YOU RUN OUT RUN TO JESUS!

In 2000 Seven-11 stores were the market leader in the convenience food market, their closest competitor was White Hen Pantry. White Hen Pantry wanted to be number one and they launched a campaign called “when you run out - run out to White Hen.” . The focus of the campaign was to guide the watching public toward White Hen for whatever they may need. The video showed commuters, students, athletes, and others with products from White Hen - fresh sandwiches, soft drinks, chips and even beer and wine.

The campaign was so successfully that Seven and I holdings of Japan bought all the White Hen Pantry stores in the Midwest and rebranded them as Seven-11. The last White Hen pantry closed in Boston in 2013

There was not a White Hen Pantry, Seven 11, or even a Speedway in Cana of Galilee. The weeklong wedding feast committee had not prepared enough wine for the guests and this was not only inconvenient but it would be a disgrace to the groom's family. The master of the banquet could not give an ATM card to the servants and tell them to run to the store and get whatever is on the shelf.

Mary the mother of Jesus is at the wedding and being a mother she was observing everything and she saw the wine had run out. Being the mother of Jesus she knew that He could do something about and so she told her Son “They have no more wine.”

WHEN YOU RUN OUT RUN TO JESUS!

I have a friend who relocated from the Midwest to the West Coast, on his Facebook page he wrote that he has purchased all the bread and milk that he could find so that he could stand in solidarity with those on the East Coast. In other words, when we hear that the storm is coming we have been conditioned to make sure that we do not run out of the essentials and so we run out to the store prior to the storm.

I have another friend that ponders why it is that when the storms are coming people always stock up on milk, bread, and eggs. Are they planning to eat French toast for the duration of the storm, she ponders?

Like others I also have a strategy for when the storms are coming, it is a strategy born out of the Chicago Blizzard that struck on January 26, 1967. I get things to eat that do not require cooking, for the power may go out. I get plenty of things to drink and clean out the coolers, for we can store stuff outside in a blizzard. I check the match and candle supplies and I locate all the quilts and blankets and freshen them up.

When the forecast predicted storms Michael and Jasmyne had to get involved in getting the house ready as we had no servants to turn to. So I am sure that like Mary, my mother voice just said, do what I tell you to do. We don't want to run out!

WHEN YOU RUN OUT RUN TO JESUS!

Our passage this morning tells us that that after Mary informed her Son that there was no more wine. She then informed the servants that they were to do what Jesus, her Son said to do.

I wonder if we could learn something here! When we realize that we are about to run out we do what Jesus tells us to do. I mean what might things be like if every time we were running low on something we did what Jesus told us to do. How would our lives be different if when the jars of our lives were empty we would run to Jesus?

Stay with me just a bit longer! I am trying to take you someplace, but you may need to pray in order to get there. The wine has run out and Jesus is there! Jesus could have just lifted His head toward heaven and asked His Father to fill the empty jars. Jesus could have

just spoken the word and the empty jars would be filled. Jesus could have done anything and everything to fill those empty jars. But He did not and there is our application for the coming week. (Put a pin here: Jesus needs you to participate!)

If you want Jesus to fill the void, the emptiness, the meaningless in your life, you cannot bring Him those same old empty jars.

Teaching Point #1 Jesus needs some new jars to fill

He did not choose the Sadducees and Pharisees –
He choose tax collectors and fishermen

If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation –
you don't get a bath and put your dirty clothes back on

You don't want to put the **new you** into the old you
for like wine you might rip and leak
like a new garment patched with old fabric you might tear

Teaching Point #2 You must share your new wine

because you have new jars and new wine you need to share it
you need to let your **new you** shine so that others may see it and give glory to God
you need to share what God has provided so that others may see and share

Teaching Point #3 You must seek the right kind of new wine

love, When I have run out of love – run to Jesus
Sing my song – I was sinking deep in sin – but love lifted me

joy, When I have run out of joy – run to Jesus
Sing my song - I've got the joy, joy, deep in my heart

peace, When I have run out of peace – run to Jesus
declare that there is peace in the midst of the pieces

WHEN YOU RUN OUT RUN TO JESUS!