

## YOU SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST

Text: John 2:10

INTRO: In the passage under consideration, John records the first of Jesus' many miracles. We shall take note of a few lessons that might be learned by being attentive to the divine record. Note: the NIV reads, "You saved the best till now."

### I. THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES, vs. 11.

John 2:23; 3:2; 20:30-31

But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins (then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed & go to your house." (Matt. 9:6).

A. Note how these passages prove abundantly that the basic purpose of Jesus' miracles was to establish His identity & authority as the Son of God.

B. The power He gave to His apostles to work miracles was for the similar purpose of establishing that their message was Divine.

And they went out & preached everywhere, the Lord working with them & confirming the word thru the accompanying signs. (Mark 16:20).

READ HEBREWS 2:3-4

### II. THE WORD "WINE" AS USED IN THE BIBLE IS A GENERAL TERM FOR THE JUICE OF THE GRAPE, WHETHER FERMENTED OR UNFERMENTED.

A. The statement of the ruler of the feast is of a general nature. He is not saying that the guests at this feast had already had too much to drink & Jesus provided the means for them to get even drunker. The fact that he could tell that the best was saved till last shows that the general practice was not being observed here, vs. 10.

B. Other verses which show that the word "wine" was not used

exclusively of fermented drink:

Thus says the Lord, "As the new wine is found in the cluster..." (Isa 65:8).

Then all the Jews returned out of all places where they had been driven & came to the land of Judah to Gedaliah at Mizpah, & gathered wine & summer fruits in abundance. (Jer. 40:12).

C. Most scholars agree that the word "wine" is used in the Bible of the juice of the grape whether or not it is fermented. In each case, the context must be used to determine the exact meaning.

D. In this case, certain other facts should be considered.

1. Jesus taught against drunkenness, LK 21:34.
2. Jesus lived in faithful obedience to all the O.T. law, which stated, "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, pressing him to your bottle even to make him drunk, that you may look on his nakedness!" (Hab 2:15).

### III. THE LORD IS NOT ALOOF FROM COMMON PLACE THINGS OF LIFE, vs 3-11.

A. It would have been rather embarrassing for the host to run out of refreshments for the feast, but it was certainly not a matter of life and death.

B. Jesus is interested in the things that concern us, 1 Pet 5:7.

### IV. JESUS HAS THE POWER TO MAKE UNHEARD OF TRANSFORMATIONS, vs. 9.

A. Jesus' transforming power is not limited to the miraculous.

1. He turned 4 ignorant, unlearned fishermen into some of the most powerful preachers the world has ever known by His teaching.

2. He turned the greatest persecutor of the early church

into the greatest apostle & traveling evangelist in the history of the world by His truth.

3. In the centuries since His earthly ministry, He has transformed sinners of every kind into saints of God thru the medium of His word. Rom 1:16-17

B. Even today, His influence thru His divine message, the N.T. Scriptures, can change your life & mine. MT 11:28-30.

V. THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD OFTEN REQUIRES OUR COOPERATION, vs. 5-8.

A. Jesus frequently required something of those who would receive His blessings. The blind man had to was in Si-loam. Multitudes were fed when a little boy made his lunch available. Lazarus was raised from the dead, but human hands had to roll away the stone & loose him from his wrappings. JN 6:9; 9:7; 11:39-44.

B. This has always been true in the spiritual realm. The religion of Jesus has never been a "faith only" proposition. His blessings have always been for those whose faith will reach out & receive them on God's terms.

VI. WHEN JESUS BLESSES, HE BLESSES ABUNDANTLY, vs 6-7

A. When He forgives, it is not grudgingly, but abundantly. Let the wicked forsake his way & the unrighteous man his thots: & let him return to the Lord, & He will have mercy on him; & to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isa 55:7).

B. When Jesus saves, He saves to the uttermost, Heb 7:25.

C. When God answers prayer, He answers it abundantly. ...exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think. (Eph 3:20).

D. When He offers life, He offers it abundantly, JN 10:10.

E. When it comes time for the righteous to enter into their reward in heaven, it will not be necessary to slip thru aslit in the door.

For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:11).

VII. FOR THOSE WHO COOPERATE, THE "LATTER END IS BETTER FOR THEM THAN THE BEGINNING" vs 10.

- A. For those who reject the Lord, the opposite is true.  
2 Pet 2:2-022; 2 Thess. 1:7-9
- B. But for the faithful Christian, there are blessings throughout this life--and the best of blessings yet to come.  
READ MARK 10:28-30.

CONCLUSION: As I think about the time when my earth-life will be over, & I reflect upon its blessings...

- 1. Those who have helped me in so many ways.
- 2. Those with whom to associate was within itself a pleasure.  
I've been privileged to know a few hundred of the best people on earth.
- 3. Those who have prayed for me & show appreciation for the work I have tried to do.
- 4. All the unique blessings & privileges of being a Christian...

The time will come to meet the Lord face to face, & to look upon my eternal home, & to say with the ruler of the feast: Lord, You saved the best for last!

This can be your experience if you will obey the gospel and serve the Lord faithfully in the time He gives you on the earth.

La Porte, TX, January 20, 1980  
Exton, PA, August 24, 1986  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 27, 1992  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 7, 2002