



SERMON NOTES ABUNDANT LOVE

February 14, 2021 || John 2:1-11

I. Valentine's Day

- A. The celebration of Valentine's Day actually has _____ roots.
- B. St. Valentine was the patron saint of _____ love, and other expressions of love as well.

II. Water to Wine

- A. Changing water to wine wasn't just a miracle, but was a _____ of Christ's coming glory.
- B. Running out of wine, was not just a faux pas for the young couple, but would have been a source of _____ for many years to come.
- C. Jesus's mother said to the servants, "do whatever _____," because she had seen what her son was able to do.

III. Coming Glory

- A. Jesus says, _____ has not yet come, meaning he would be one step closer to facing the time of his torture and execution.
- B. The six, massive stone jars held water used for ritual cleansing. Jesus was announcing that being in the _____ of God would no longer require Temple rituals.
- C. The master of the banquet said "you saved the good wine until now," in other words, Jesus had saved the best until _____.

IV. New Life

Jesus is the one who changes sorrow into joy, _____ into abundance, and death into life.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The wedding at Cana sets the scene for the beginning of Jesus's ministry in the world (John 2:1-11). This passage is full of symbolic meaning. Jesus acts on behalf of the young couple, but John tells us the act is not just a miracle, but a "sign" of his coming glory. As a guest, Jesus brings new wine to the wedding feast. Later, Jesus will say that he is the bridegroom, who rejoices in his bride, the Church. How can we be a people who live fully in the "sign" and light of Christ's abundant love?

Monday: John 2:1-11

In John 2:4b, Jesus says, "My hour has not come." Jesus will talk about "his hour" many times, referring to the hour of his eventual torture and execution. When his mother appeared with her request, Jesus knew this sign would bring him one step closer to his final hour on earth. That fateful hour has come and gone, and Jesus has accomplished what he came to accomplish through his life, death and resurrection. We now live on the other side of that "hour." How can you live more fully today in the knowledge of what Jesus has accomplished?

Tuesday: John 2:1-11

As you read the passage again, notice the banquet master says, "you have kept the good wine until now" (John 2:10). Jesus provided the superior quality wine, though few would have noticed or complained if the quality had been poor, but Jesus provided the best. As followers of Jesus, we live in the abundance of God's love, grace, and forgiveness. When you receive the cup at communion, what is your understanding of Christ's gift? Can you acknowledge and savor that gift today?

Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18

Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. In this passage, the prophet Joel warns God's people to "rend their hearts, and not their clothes." In other words, God is not concerned about our outer appearance, but whether our hearts are humble and repentant. Does this word come to you as a threat or relief today? How might God be calling you to turn back, make a change, and respond to his words today? Speak to God about what is on your heart today.

Thursday: Isaiah 58:5-9a

This passage makes it very clear that our faith is not a private matter between "God and me." We are called to help undo the bonds of injustice and oppression. Where do I see people being treated unjustly around me? What is one thing I could do today, this week, or during Lent to respond to God's call in this passage? Can I resolve to do this one thing as an offering to God, right now?

Friday: Matthew 4:1-11

For forty days and nights, Jesus faced the challenges of the tempter. One day, Jesus would be the Lord of the whole world, but not by way of the devil, who wanted him to grab power for his own ends. In this strange season of pandemic, you may be facing temptations you do not normally face, big and small. During this Lent, reflect on the temptations you find hard to resist. Ask God to give you wisdom to recognize the tempter's voice and the power to resist.

Saturday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

We say very serious difficulties are a "matter of life and death," but choices we make every day can lead to life or death. When we choose to act out of anger or vengeance, neglect or ignore the needs of those around us, or lie and cover up the truth, we make a choice toward death. When we choose to do what is right even when it costs us, nurture and support others, and speak the truth in love, we choose life. As you journey through this season of Lent, do you want to join in God's life giving work? How will you, this day, and the in days ahead, "choose life?"

Answers to the sermon notes: Answers: IA) Christian, B) romantic or courtly. IIA) sign, B) embarrassment or shame, C) "he tells you". IIIA) my hour B) presence C) last. IVA) scarcity