

Week 3 Discussion Questions

Text: John 2:1-25

Icebreaker: What is the best food you have ever had at a wedding?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. Imagine you are at a large and lavish wedding, and you have traveled far to be there. After the ceremony you make your way to the reception area and take your seats, patiently waiting for your table number to be called so you can eat, but when it gets to your turn instead of excusing you to get your food the attendant apologizes and informs you that they have run out of food.

- a. What would be your response in that moment?
- b. Put yourself in the place of the Bride and Groom. What would your response be to running out of food?

We expect they would feel some sense of shame and embarrassment. Maybe they would feel helplessness, unable to do anything to change it now. Possibly a sense of ruin on what should have been one of the best days of their lives.

3. The definition of sin is "missing the mark." We were created for good: to flourish and to love. Sin in our lives results in a lack of the flourishing and abundance we were created for. In what ways have you experienced a sense of lack in your life as a result of sin or shame?
4. What does John 2 tell us about the quantity and the quality of the wine that Jesus provides for the wedding? What does this teach us about Christ and his character?
John tells us there are 6 stone water jars that can each hold up to 20-30 gallons of water. One gallon of wine is equal to approximately 5 bottles of wine. So each jar contained somewhere between 600-900 bottles worth of wine. That's upwards of 3000 servings of wine. Though this may have been a large wedding, it would not have been too large, because we know that Cana was a small town in the middle of nowhere. This amount of wine far surpassed the quantity needed for such a party. The Master of the Feast tells us that this wine is of great quality as well. Jesus in His first sign provides both high quality but also high quantity. This reveals that he has come to provide abundantly more than we can imagine.
5. Read together Isaiah 25:6-9. Compare what Isaiah says that the Lord will provide in this passage with what we see Jesus provide in the Wedding at Cana in John 2.
Isaiah 25:6-9 paints a picture of the Salvation of the Lord being like a lavish feast including rich food and aged wine. The abundance of this feast compared to the

abundance of wine at the wedding in Cana should both point us to the abundance we receive as a result of salvation in Christ.

6. John calls this miracle a “sign.” What does he say is the purpose of the sign?
We are told in the text that Jesus’ sign was to manifest God’s glory with the result that those who witnessed it would believe. When we believe in Christ, we can experience the abundance of His grace for us.
7. When Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding, He met a very practical need in an unexpected way. Can you think of a time when God provided for you in a surprising or even “ordinary” situation?
8. John tells us that this is Jesus’ first of many signs that he will perform. What is the significance that his first sign is performed at a wedding?
The setting of the wedding can point us in a few places that provide context for this sign. First, wedding imagery has been used all through the Old Testament, especially in the Prophets, as a metaphor for God’s relationship with his people. God desires to be unified with his people, but they continue to commit adultery against him. Jesus is prophesied to be the Bridegroom and Israel and the Church are called his Bride. Jesus’ presence at the wedding in Cana, where he provides abundantly is a sign pointing to his ultimate wedding to His people, in which he provides abundantly the only way in which He might finally be united with them again.
9. Similarly, the use of wine in His first sign is very intentional. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you associate wine with the Bible?
While there are other answers that are also important, the most common answer is likely Communion/The Lord’s Supper. While a wedding is a covenant between a man and a woman before God, the Lord’s Supper is done in remembrance of another covenant, one between God and His people.
10. Discuss together the significance of taking communion together as a congregation on a regular basis. Why do we take communion and what is your experience participating in that ordinance?
“The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.”¹

¹ [Calvary Bible Church: Beliefs.](#)