

WHO IS JESUS?

JOHN 2:1-12

JESUS IS OUR WINE



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Why do we do what we do? What's our motivation in life? Anyone who's studied people will tell you that our primary motivation is happiness, pleasure, joy. The French Christian philosopher, Blaise Pascal, said, "All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end...This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves." The Puritan Bible commentator, Matthew Henry, said much the same.

And yet Pascal, Henry, and all other students of the human race also tell us that happiness is unattainable. We want to be happy but we cannot be happy.

So are we wrong in making happiness our primary aim or are we seeking happiness in the wrong way and the wrong places? **Is happiness a right goal and are we shooting into the right net?** John 2:1-12 answers that question for us.

BACKGROUND

- Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1-2)
- Jesus is our Creator (1:3)
- Jesus is our Light and Life (1:4-9)
- Jesus is our Big Brother (1:10-13)
- Jesus is our Tabernacle (1:14-17).
- Jesus is our Preacher (1:18)
- Jesus is the Messiah (1:19-28)
- Jesus is our Sacrifice (1:29)
- Jesus is our Rabbi (1:35-46)
- Jesus is our Ladder (1:46-51)
- Jesus is our Wine (2:1-12)



1. WE HAVE NO WINE (1-5)

Jesus goes to weddings

Jesus goes to weddings. That's quite amazing, isn't it? Jesus was not an ascetic monk who chose to live in social isolation. In fact, he enjoyed people, public events, and eating and drinking so much, that people said, "Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" (Luke 7:34). He did not withdraw from life in this world but entered into it. As someone said, he did natural things spiritually and spiritual things naturally.

Jesus honors weddings

Jesus not only went to a marriage ceremony, he performed his first miracle at a wedding reception. It's highly significant that he chose a wedding at which to perform his first miracle. He knew that marriage was vital for preserving a godly seed and preserving social order in the world. He also knew that in the future, it would be undermined by the Church, the State, the media, corporations, the judiciary, and so on. Above all, he knew it was the best picture of his relationship between himself and his people (Eph. 5:22ff; Rev. 19:7).

Weddings need Jesus

In every culture, and in the Bible, wedding day joy is used as a metaphor for the greatest human happiness. But here, at this wedding, there's a major problem. **The wine ran out** (3). Jesus's mother, Mary, probably helping with the catering at the reception saw the problem and said to Jesus, **"They have no wine"** (3). From Jesus's response in verse four, it's clear that she not only knew Jesus could do something about this, but she was expecting or even demanding that he do so. Chastened for her presumption, she removes herself from the chain of command, turns to the rest of the servants, and says, **"Do whatever he tells you"** (5).

While the Bible condemns excessive use of wine, it also uses its moderate use as an emblem of joy (Judges 9:13; Ps. 104:14, 15). The empty, dry, and joyless wine bottles at this wedding were a picture of empty, dry, and joyless religion of the Jews. Judaism had degenerated into a cold, mechanical routine destitute of joy in God. The wine was empty and joyless, the wedding was empty and joyless, Judaism was empty and joyless. Humanity was empty and joyless. All eyes are on Jesus as Mary says, "Do whatever he tells you." Jesus can fix this great human need.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Does your life today say, "I have no wine"? Are you empty, dry, and joyless like these bottles. Have you tried to find pleasure and happiness in multiple places but find yourself as dry as a desert, as vacant as a vacuum, as sad as a funeral? Maybe you got some initial joy from money, drugs, immorality, pornography, friends, and so on, but now the wine has run out. Listen to Mary's words, "Do whatever he tells you."

BRING YOUR EMPTY BOTTLES
TO THE DIVINE VINE



Where is God's best wine?



2. JESUS IS OUR WINE (6-11)

Jesus gives miraculous joy

Jesus instructed the servants to fill the jars with water and take a sample to the master of the feast (6-8). Somewhere between the filling with water and the taking of a sample, Jesus turned the water into wine. No matter how long you leave it, water does not turn into wine naturally. This was a supernatural act that said, "I'm come to fill you with supernatural joy." Jesus joy is extraordinary joy, unearthly joy, heavenly joy. If Jesus can change water into wine, he can miraculously change your life from bad to good, from sad to glad.

Jesus gives generous joy

The six empty containers could hold 30 gallons each. That's 180 gallons of wine! That does not mean everybody got drunk. These wedding receptions went on for days and were attended by the whole community. Also, there's some evidence that the wine in these days was not so strong as today's wine. But let's not allow these qualifications to obscure the abundance of wine Jesus produced. How would you like 180 gallons of joy? Bring your tanks to Jesus.

Jesus gives superior joy

It's not just the amount of wine that Jesus produced, but the quality of it. When he sampled it, **the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now"** (9-10). Jesus is God's best wine. There is none better. As the Psalmist said: **There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!" You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound** (Ps. 4:6-7). Spiritual joys are far deeper, longer, wider, happier than any other joys.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Choose Jesus's wine. Every day, we are faced with a wine rack promising us various kinds of happiness. Which are you choosing? Are you absent when Jesus is pouring out his best wine on Sundays?

Drink Jesus's wine. Three years later Jesus instituted another wine-based miracle. He appointed wine as a way to remember his death and commune with him as our greatest joy. **And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins"** (Matt. 26:27-28).

Look forward to Jesus' wine. However many pleasures we find in Jesus in this world, the greatest is still ahead: **I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom"** (Matt. 27:29). That's a happy hour. That's a happy eternity!

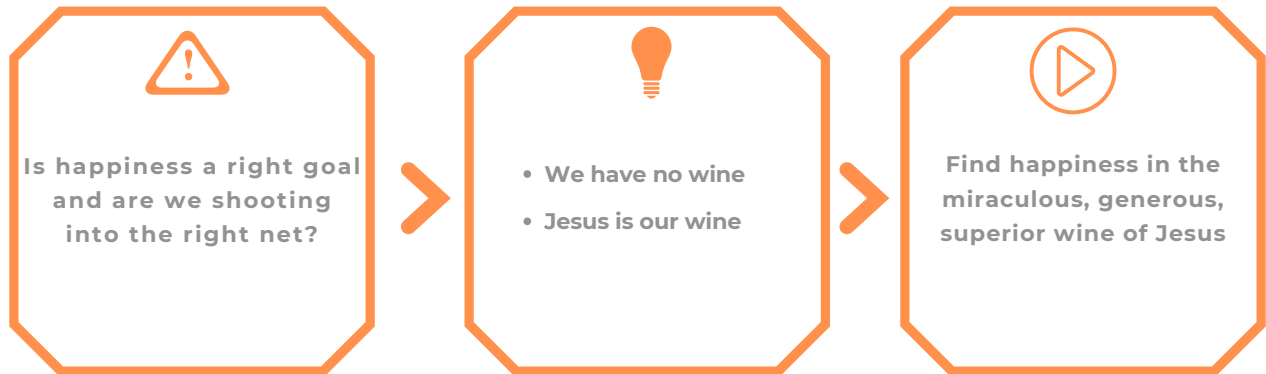
JESUS' WINE IS FOR
GULPING NOT SIPPING



Hear God's Story > Change your story > Share the story > Change others' stories



SUMMARY



PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to drink deeply of your pleasures and to offer that happy drink to others who are perishing with thirst. Amen

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's the first answer in the Westminster Shorter Catechism? How does it relate to this?
2. Where have you tried to find happiness?
3. How did you "run out of wine"?
4. What's your favorite joy of Jesus? What about him makes you happiest?
5. How would you commend this wine to an alcoholic?
6. How did this change the way you experienced the Lord's Supper?

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