

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Two

I. The Principle of the Lord's Ministry (John 2:1-11)

The Burden to Impart:

Man's enjoyment, like man's life, is very short-lived, is gradually running out and will one day end altogether. Also, this enjoyment is really not so sweet, rich or satisfying. It is likened to "poor wine." The Lord Jesus can change our poorer, unsatisfied and dying life (which is like tasteless water) into a rich, satisfying eternal life (like the "best wine"). He does this firstly when we are saved by generating us with God's life. He does this also whenever we open ourselves to Him and let Him come in and change our present "death" into "life."

Memory Verse: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10b

Facts to Teach:

1. Jesus began His ministry in Cana of Galilee (show on map).
2. The first sign that Jesus did when beginning His ministry shows us the principle and the meaning behind all the other signs that He did.
3. Jesus and His disciples were all invited to a wedding in Cana.
4. A wedding is the happiest day in a person's life. After many years of growing up, learning many lessons and becoming mature, people get married and begin a family of their own.
5. In those days when someone got married they would have a great wedding feast (sometimes lasting for a whole week) and invite all of their relatives and friends to come and rejoice with them.
6. Along with the food, wine was always served for the people to drink. The wine was not for them to get drunk and wild; it was given for them to drink and enjoy instead of water. (Their water was not clean and pure as ours is, and it did not have a good taste.)
7. While the feast was going on, suddenly the wine ran out! This meant that the wedding feast was over because the wine was the center and enjoyment of the feast.
8. Jesus' mother told Him the wine ran out. He seemed cold in His answer to her not out of disrespect, but because now that He had begun His ministry she must realize that He was not just her Son, to do things for her pleasure; He was the Son of God and must do His Father's will and work.
9. Jesus had the servants fill six stone waterpots with plain old water (probably not very good tasting) clear up to the brim.
10. Then He told them to draw out some and take it to the master of the feast to taste it.
11. When the master of the feast tasted the water that had become wine, he was very surprised and happy. He was surprised because this wine tasted much better than the wine they were served first.
12. Although the master of the feast didn't know where that best wine came from, the servants who brought it to him knew, and the Lord's disciples realized that Jesus had miraculously changed the water into wine.

(continued)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Two

13. By doing that the Lord expressed His Father's life and glory. (Surely, He did not brag or boast about what He had done. He expressed His divine power in human humility.) His disciples began to believe on Him because of this sign.

Some Explanations to Give:

1. Although some things in our human life are enjoyable, even the most enjoyable things, like the wedding feast, will one day come to an end.
2. This is because everything related to our human life (our enjoyment, strength, health and even our physical life), like the poor wine that ran out, is also very slowly running out, and when we die, it is gone.
3. The Lord Jesus, however, did something marvelous: He changed ordinary, tasteless water into a sweet, rich, delicious wine for the people to drink and enjoy. This shows that whenever we realize our need and open ourselves up to the Lord in a real way and let Him live and work in us, He can change our "water" into "wine," our sorrow into joy, our failure into victory, our death into life.
4. The best wine is last. Even as the ruler of the feast discovered that the new wine is better than the former wine (2:9-10), so we too shall find that the life which we receive through regeneration is much better than our natural life. Our former life, symbolized by the poor wine, was greatly inferior. The Lord did not give us the best first, but last.
5. A new marriage feast began when we are saved and it will never end. There is always joy within and there is always a marriage feast within because we have the divine wine, which is the divine life, the Lord Himself.

The Ministry of the Lord Jesus

Lesson Two

1. In the wedding feast in Cana everything went perfectly well and there were no serious problems.

True _____ False _____

2. If the Lord Jesus had not been invited to that newly married couple's wedding they would have had a happy time anyway.

True _____ False _____

3. What period of our life does the wedding in Cana symbolize?

- _____ a) Our birth - the beginning of our life.
_____ b) The very highest and best time of our life.
_____ c) Our death - the end of our life.

4. What does the poorer wine running out show us?

- _____ a) All enjoyment that comes from our human life will one day run out and end.
_____ b) The joy of the Lord, like everything else, will one day end.

5. What did the Lord Jesus have the servants do when he changed the water into wine?