

Filled and *Changed*

John 2:1-11

The Rev. Dave Fisher



Filled and Changed

John 2:1-11 (NLT):

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. 3 The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

4 "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

5 But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

6 Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water."

When the jars had been filled, 8 he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

9 When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. 10 "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

11 This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

In the beginning of John's gospel, after his masterful prologue about the Word (through whom all things were created, who is the light and life of all humanity and shines in the darkness!), John narrates the calling of Jesus' first disciples. And then, in chapter 2, we come to the wedding at Cana. This eventful party becomes the setting for the first of Jesus' "signs," by which God reveals his glory to the world. After we heard this story together today, Dave highlighted three themes: abundance, transformation, and participation:

Abundance

1. John specifies that the jars Jesus used for the new wine were intended for ceremonial washing. Do you think there is significance to this? If so, what do you think we should take from that?
2. Have you seen or faced a situation characterized by complete emptiness, only to see God transform it into a scene of abundance?
3. In your own words, based on your experience or expectation, what are some of the characteristics of the abundant life that Jesus offers?

Transformation

1. When you think of transformation by the power of God, do you think first of dramatic lightning-strike moments of change? Or do you think of quiet, mysterious, almost imperceptible transformation? Which do you prefer?
2. When has God made a slow, steady, quiet change in your life or the life of someone you know?

Participation

1. What is the "water" that you are carrying for God's Kingdom these days? What "jars" are you filling, confident that God is able to make the transformation?

2. Which reminder do you need: That the work you are doing is ultimately God's, as is the glory? Or that the task you have been given does matter, even though you're "just filling jars"?

