The Best Is Yet to Come: New Wine September 25-26, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Joel Schmidgall
Scripture: John 2:1-1

Series Overview:

We live at the intersection of two theologies, two realities. The faithfulness of God is pursuing from the past—SO FAR SO GOD. And the sovereignty of God is setting us up for the future. We live forwards, but God is working backward. God is ordering our footsteps. God is preparing good works. We live in a fallen world, a broken world, but heaven is invading earth right here, right now.

We don't believe in happily ever after. We believe in something so much bigger and better and longer—happily FOREVER after. THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

Series Discussion Questions:

Where do I see God at work in my life?

Message Overview:

Have you ever felt stuck? In a jam? In a situation that is impossible to get out of without help? This is the story that Jesus enters into in John 2. The wedding party had run out of refreshments for its guests and had no options. That's when Jesus got the call, that he then delivered. His very first miracle was to turn water into wine.

This miracle was not a magic trick that provided excess fun to a wedding, though. This miracle would set the tone for everything to come in the new covenant. Jesus would establish a new kingdom normal, would reveal His power to His people, would exercise that power for transformation, and would spark faith in his disciples.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions:

Jesus loves to celebrate. Jesus loves to go to parties. His first recorded miracle was at a wedding!
- What is God showing me about his heart through this story?

Jesus always uses what is available

- Read Exodus 4:2-12, Moses who is unsure of himself is asked by God, "What is in your hand"? He is then shown signs of God's power, through the simple abilities he has in the moment. Miracles that teach him about the Almighty God.
- God's resources are not limited by ours. What is a resource, "in your hand" that God wants to use, no matter how big or small it may seem to you?

Not only does Jesus change the molecular composition of the water, He circumvents the normal aging process of wine, creating the perfect drink for this occasion!

Jesus is establishing a new kingdom normal!

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:7 and 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Jesus uses us just as we are. He keeps the earthen pot and changes what's on the inside.
- Where is God calling you to be transformed in your life right now?

Jesus shows His power to those willing to serve and are willing to look foolish.

- Reflect on John 2:7. The servants filled the jars to the brim, despite their doubt. Obedience is what counts, not just action. The servants obeyed Jesus and experienced the miracle. They were a part of it! God sometimes calls you to do the ridiculous so he can show you the miraculous.
- When was the last time you did something totally uncomfortable that stretched your faith? Is God calling you to do something that sounds ridiculous today?

Jesus always comes when you invite Him

- Read John 14:23.
- What comes out of us is an overflow of what we fill ourselves with. We don't believe in half-empty or half-full. We believe in "to the brim" and then overflowing.
- This miracle happened because Jesus received an invitation. He will always come where we welcome him. Where do you need to clear room in your heart to invite Jesus in?

"He who turned the water into wine, turned the wine into a bottomless glass of grace"

Prayer: Lord thank you for accepting me as I am. Help me see what's already in my hand and bring it to you. I know you have a plan and the power for joyous transformation! Thank you for your bottomless glass of grace.

Practical Application

o   Reflect on your resources and ask God to show you where He wants to work in your life? Write it down.

o   Plug into a small group. ncc.re/groups. Find others that shift the atmosphere around them for the better.

o   Hack some good habits in a prayerful virtual gathering by joining the **Upper Zoom** each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. **Register at ncc.re/UpperZoom**