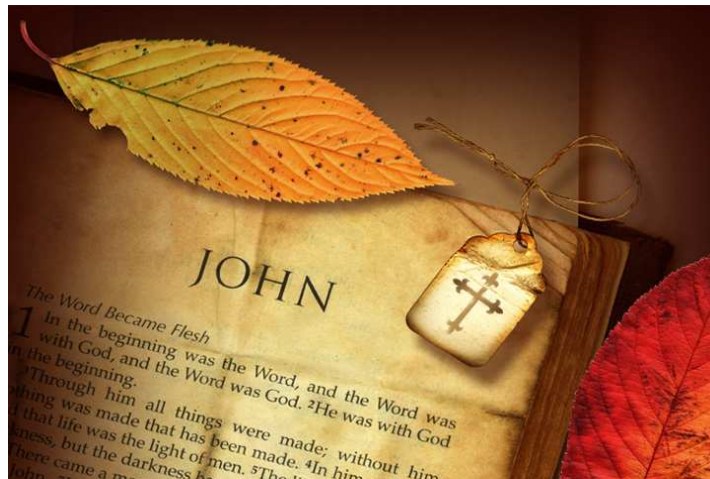


Fall 2010 Sermon Series:

The Gospel of John

Week #2

Discussion Guide



September 11/12, 2010

“How is the Holy Spirit Like Alcohol?”

Pastor Bruce Humphrey
Ephesians 5:18-20, John 2:1-12

<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

Next week: September 25/26
“Born Again and Again” Pastor Bruce Humphrey
John 3:1-16

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Scripture References

Read and reflect on the following scriptures:

Ephesians 5:18-20

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notes:

John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there a few days.

Notes:

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Discussion Guide

Scripture

1. Read the Ephesians 5:18-20 scripture. Why does the apostle Paul use the Holy Spirit as a substitute for wine?
2. What is it about being filled with the Holy Spirit that might make a person want to sing and praise God?
3. Read the John 2:1-12 scripture. Why was it so important for the host to not run out of wine?
4. In his gospel, why does John refer to miracles as “signs?”
5. What does this sign reveal about the character of Jesus?

Sermon

Key Words: ***Spirit - Wine - Water - Miracle – Substitute***

6. What do you think people are looking for when they “self-medicate” or use “substitutes?”
7. Why do substitutes fall short of delivering what people are looking for?
8. What characteristic of wine makes it a reasonable substitute for the Holy Spirit?

“We know that John likes to use images to present spiritual ideas ... Throughout this gospel, water is not merely physical water, wind is not merely physical wind, and bread is not merely physical bread. Thus, it makes sense that he is not primarily discussing physical wine for the wedding.” Bruce Humphrey

9. What is the purpose of Jesus using physical things (water, wind, bread) to demonstrate spiritual truth?
10. What does this tell you about the humanity of Jesus? What does this tell you about his divinity?
11. Discuss the difference between religious rituals and internal transformation. Why do you think Jesus thought this was so important?
12. If drinking in the Holy Spirit creates transformation, what is the true miracle in this story?

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Life Applications

Personal:

1. Re-read the John 2:1-12 scripture. What stands out to you as the most significant part of Jesus turning water into wine? Why?
2. What sign(s) has Jesus given you that reveals His love for you?
3. Where do you go, or what do you do, to be filled, or re-filled, with the Holy Spirit?
4. What steps could you be taking to be “re-filled” on a more regular basis?

Small Group:

1. Begin with praise for the hospitality of your host for your small group meeting – thank them for their efforts in creating a comfortable place for your group to meet.
2. Describe one positive detail from the most recent wedding, or elaborate party, you attended. What does this say to you about how important you are to the host/hostess?
3. Now describe one negative detail from the same. As a guest, how did this make you feel?
4. At the time this gospel was written, purification water was used for ritual washing of hands and feet – the water would actually be *dirty*. What is the significance of Jesus turning the water intended for *purification* into wine?
5. Substituting the Holy Spirit for wine, what does this say about what happens to us when we are filled with the Holy Spirit?

Prayer:

Praise Jesus for revealing his truth to us through the gospel of John. Ask Him for the eyes to see the signs of His presence in our lives, and the ability to recognize and replace our false substitutes with the Holy Spirit.



Further resources for study of the Gospel of John:

John – Life Change Series, a NAVPRESS Bible Study.

Book of John, Life Lessons with Max Lucado

Many other resources are available in the RBCPC Library – check it out!