

Bible Studies on the “signs” in John’s Gospel

Study 2: The Wedding at Cana

1. It is sometimes suggested that God is a “killjoy,” that is that he doesn’t want us to have fun and enjoy the good things in life. Read and share your thoughts on the following quotes:
 - a. “God is not a killjoy; he just opposes what kills joy” – John Piper
 - b. “I like to tell the confirmation kids I teach that Christians should enjoy ice cream more than non-Christians. Perhaps *should* is a weak word – Christians *must* enjoy ice cream more than their unbelieving peers. Why? Because we know the God who created the cow, the sugar, and the taste buds. Behind the glory that is Ben and Jerry’s is the even greater glory of a God who “richly provides us with everything to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17). The same goes for marriage, wine ... and anything else you could possibly imagine. Christians are free to enjoy these things better and more fully, since they are not enjoyed as a hedonistic end in themselves, but rather as a sign of God’s rich generosity ... In fact, I would argue that secularism (and any other form of unbelief in currency today), while on the surface may seem enthralling, eventually ends up being the killjoy rather than Christianity properly understood.” – The Beggar’s Blog¹
2. Read John 2:1-11 and discuss:
 - a. What do you think Jesus meant when he asked, “what does this have to do with me?” (v. 4)
 - b. Jesus says, “my hour has not yet come” (v. 4) ...
 - i. When you hear it said that “this is [insert name here]’s hour,” what does that usually mean? Can you think of an example in the news recently when this has been, or could be, said of someone?
 - ii. What is Jesus’ “hour,” and when does it come? [see John 4:21-3; 5:25; 7:30; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1]
 - c. Jesus turned water into wine (v. 9) ...
 - i. Does it surprise you that God should provide wine for people to drink? Why/why not? Is wine a good thing, or a bad thing? [Some relevant verses: Psalm 104:14-15; Proverbs 20:1; Romans 14:20-21; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 5:23; 1 Peter 4:3]
 - ii. What do you think is the significance of the fact that the water Jesus turned into wine was in jars for the Jewish rites of purification (v. 6)? [It might help to look at the following: Numbers 8:7; Psalm 26:6; 51:1-2, 7; Isaiah 1:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:25-27; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:13-14, 22; James 4:8; 1 John 1:7-9]
 - iii. What is the symbolic meaning of wine in the Bible, and the significance of the fact that Jesus provides it? [It may help to look at the following: Genesis 27:28; Deuteronomy 33:28; Psalm 104:14-15; Amos 9:13-14; Isaiah 27:2; Matthew 26:26-19; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-25]
 - d. John tells us that Jesus “manifested his glory” in this miracle. What is “glory”, and what does this tell us about Jesus? [It may help to look at some of the other places John speaks of Jesus’ glory: John 1:14; 8:50, 54; 11:4, 40; 12:41; 17:5, 24]
 - e. What was the result of this miracle for the disciples (v. 11)? What impact does it have on you? What have you learned, or how will this affect your life?

¹ www.thebeggarsblog.com/blog/2016/10/10/is-god-a-killjoy