

WHEN I RUN OUT

John 2:1-11

March 10, 2019

*This is the first of his miraculous signs Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee.
He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*
John 2:11

Passion narratives with extended introductions

*On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee.
Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."
"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."*
John 2:1-4

1) The wedding points to THE CROSS

2) Wine represents THE JOY OF THE SPIRIT / COVENANT LIVING

3) Pay attention to God's TIMING

Saving the best for last

*His mother said, do whatever he tells you"
Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them
And the master of the banquet tasted the water than been turned into wine.
He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.
Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first
and the cheaper wine after the guests had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."*
John 2:5-10

The first of the signs

This is the first of his miraculous signs Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee.

He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

John 2:11

1) Jesus revealed the mystery of his PRESENCE

2) The “New Wine” is SO MUCH BETTER → Hebrews 8 and the New Covenant

3) Jesus brings us to ABUNDANCE

Resources for further study of John 2

The Belgic Confession, Articles 18-21, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>

Jmaes Montgomery Boice’s essays at <https://www.monergism.com/these-things-are-written-so-you-may-believe>

Deffinbaugh’s study of John’s gospel at <https://bible.org/series/you-might-believe-study-gospel-john>

Charles Alexander’s work on John and the incarnation at <http://www.allbygrace.com/chasalexander.html>

George Whitefield’s “The Marriage of Cana” sermon at <http://www.biblebb.com/files/whitefield/GW036.htm>

Spurgeon’s sermons “Obeying Christ’s Orders” at <https://www.monergism.com/obeying-christs-orders-john-25>

Horatius Bonar’s study on John 1:12-13 at http://graceebooks.com/library/Horatius%20Bonar/HB_Light%20%26%20Truth%20Gospels.pdf

The summary of Jonathan Edward’s theology on the incarnation at <https://www.monergism.com/christs-incarnation>

Bruce Ware’s work on incarnation at <https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/incarnation/systematic-theology-II/bruce-ware>

Earl Palmer’s *The Intimate Gospel* (Word, 1987). Palmer has a wonderful chapter defending the historicity of Jesus’ miracles.

Michael Horton’s “Heaven Came Down” at <http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/heavencamedown.html>

James Packer’s *Knowing God* (InterVarsity Press, 1993) and Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* (Banner of Truth, 2017, 1678 edition) are great places to start your study of incarnation and faith.

Deffinbaugh’s study of the incarnation at <https://bible.org/seriespage/1-importance-incarnation>

From Spurgeon's "Obeying Christ's Orders"

III. And now, beloved, let me occupy the last few minutes in answering this question, WHAT WILL FOLLOW FROM THIS OBEDIENCE? Suppose we do whatever Christ commands us, what then? I will tell you what then.

The first thing is, that you will feel *free from responsibility*. The servant, who has done what his master has bidden him, may in his own mind fear that some dreadful consequences may follow, but he says to himself, "It will be no fault of mine. I did what I was bidden to do." Now, beloved, if you want to get rid of the whole burden of life, by faith do whatsoever Christ commands you. Then, if the heavens should seem about to fall, it would be no business of yours to shore them up. You have not to mend God's work, and keep it right. I remember what Mr. John Wesley said to his preachers: "Now, brethren, I do not want you to mend my rules. I want you to obey them." That is pretty strong from John Wesley; but from our Lord Jesus Christ it comes most suitably. He does not want us to get altering, and mending, and touching up, and looking at consequences. No; do exactly what he tells you, and you have nothing to do with the consequences. You may have to bear them, but that he will give you grace to do; and it shall be your joy to bear all ill consequences that come of firm obedience to Christ. This kind of doctrine does not suit the year 1889. If you go over to Scotland, and see where the Covenanters' graves are, anybody who thinks according to the spirit of this age will say that they were just a set of fools to have been so stubborn and so strict about doctrine as to die for it. Why, really, there is not anything in the now philosophy that is worth dying for! I wonder whether there is any "modern thought" doctrine that would be worth the purchase of a cat's life. According to the teaching of the broad school, what is supposed to be true to-day may not be true to-morrow, so it is not worth dying for. We may as well put off the dying till the thing is altered; and if we wait a month, it will be altered, and thus, at the last, you may get the old creed back again. The Lord send it, and send us yet a race of men who will obey what he bids them, and do what he tells them, and believe what he teaches them, and lay their own wills down in complete obedience to their Lord and Master! Such a people will feel free from responsibility.

Then you shall feel *a sweet flow of love to Christ*. The disobedient child—well, he will not be turned out of the house, because he will not do the bidding of his mother and father; but when he does not submit to the rule of the house, he has a hard time of it, and he ought to have. There is that evening kiss, it is not as warm as it would have been; and that morning greeting, after long disobedience, has no happiness in it; and, indeed, the more kind father and mother are, the more unhappy he is. And the sweet love of Christ is such that it makes us unhappy in disobedience. You cannot walk contrary to Christ, and yet enjoy fellowship with him; and the more dear and near he would be to you, so much the wider does the gap seem to be when you are not doing his bidding.

Besides, there is no *carrying out your faith* except by doing as he bids you. That faith which lies only in a creed, or in a little pious book, is not good for much. Faith does what Christ bids it do, and it delights to do so. It rejoices to run risks, it delights to put off from the land, and get out to sea. It is glad to sacrifice itself when Jesus calls for it, because faith cannot be satisfied without bearing fruit, and the fruit of faith is obedience to him in whom we believe.

Beloved, I also think that, if we will obey Christ in what he says, we shall be *learning to be leaders*. Wellington used to say that no man is fit to command until he has learned to obey; and I am sure that it is so. We shall never see a race of really first-rate men unless our boys and girls are made to obey their parents in their childhood. The essential glory of manhood is lost when disobedience is tolerated; and, certainly, in the Church of God, the Lord does put his leading servants through very severe ordeals. The best place for the books of a minister is not his library, but a sick-bed very often. Affliction is our school; and before we

can deal with others, God must deal with us. If thou wilt not obey, thou shalt not be set to command.

And lastly, I do believe that learning to obey is *one of the preparatives for the enjoyments of heaven*. Why, in heaven, they have no will but God's will! Their will is to serve him, and delight themselves in him; and if you and I do not learn here below what obedience to God is, and practice it, and carry it out, how could we hope to be happy in the midst of obedient spirits? Dear hearers, if you had never learned to trust Christ and obey him, how could you go to heaven? You would be so unhappy there that you would ask God to let you run unto hell for shelter, for nothing would strike you with more horror than to be in the midst of perfectly holy people who find their delight in the service of God. May the Lord bring us to this complete obedience to Christ! Then this world will be an inclined plane, or a ladder such as Jacob saw, up which we shall trip with holy gladness till we come to the top, and find our heaven in perfect obedience to God.

It is not Mary who speaks to you to-night, but it is the Church of God, the mother of all who truly love Christ; and she says to you, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it," and if you will do it, he will turn the water into wine for you. He will make your love more glad and happy than it ever would have been without obeying him, and he will provide for you. Obey him, and he will comfort you. Obey him, and he will perfect you. Be with him in the ways of duty, and you shall be with him in the home of glory.

The Lord grant this, of his infinite grace, giving to us to know the will of Christ, and then working in us to will and to do of his own good pleasure! Amen and Amen