

Message #1044  
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"JUST DO WHAT JESUS TELLS YOU TO DO"  
{John 2:1-11}

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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#### INTRODUCTION

I love to officiate at weddings...they're such wonderful events. I get so excited after counseling with a couple for several months when the day finally arrives.

...I share their excitement

...I try my best to keep them focused

...after all, this is one of the most important days in their life

...this event is far more important than a huge, expensive, reception

...this involves a commitment for the rest of their lives

It's been such great fun in recent weeks talking with Vincent Arishvara about his wedding this July to Vania Hendratna.

...the plans are being made

...their family in Indonesia are getting visas to come to America

...after ten years of waiting--five years of being separated by 8,000 miles--it's finally going to take place

...they're both so excited...and so am I!

I checked my data base yesterday and discovered that since June of 1987 I've officiated at 159 weddings {there were a good number before these that aren't on my computer}. In addition to the 74 weddings at Trinity, I've performed weddings...

...at the beach

...in parks

...restaurants

...vineyards

...in homes

...around swimming pools

...backyards

...living, dining rooms, and dens

...in mansions

...in amphitheaters

...with rabbis and priests

...in Roman Catholic Churches and Missions

...in hotels

...in both Japanese and rose gardens

...country clubs and golf courses

...a cruise boat

...I even officiated a one wedding at an equestrian center and the bride wore cowboy boots under her long white gown!

The "traditional" church wedding is no longer the norm. Today many...**WEDDINGS ARE IN HELD IN UNCONVENTIONAL PLACES**

Recently I read of a Michigan woman who works at a 7-11. She loves her customers and her fiancé. So...

...she married him on the asphalt outside the 7-11 on 7/11--July 11th

..she carried her bouquet in a Super Big Gulp cup

...hot dogs and slurpees were served at the reception.

In Washington state, a wedding was celebrated 18 stories up atop the Tacoma Narrow Suspension Bridge soaring over Puget Sound and high above the speeding traffic whizzing down below.

In Maine, one couple first met at their town transfer station--locally known as "The Dump!"

...he had just started working there

...she had just brought her first recyclables

Now they plan to be married where they met while standing in the bucket loader.

They can't wait to say "I do" in "The Dump!"

Last year there was even a space wedding when a astronaut circling the earth was wed to his bride still on planet earth! {What a honeymoon that must've been!}

Today's generation feels that it really doesn't matter where weddings take place...much to the chagrin of many mothers who've always dreamed of their son or daughter being married in a lovely church wedding with all the trimmings.

#### MANY UNEXPECTED THINGS HAPPEN AT WEDDINGS

Jesus attended a wedding when they ran out of wine in the middle of the reception.

I could write a book about wedding bloopers and bloopers!

...The first wedding I ever officiated at the Bride was Mary, the groom was Harry, and the best man was Larry! I had Harry and Larry mixed up throughout the ceremony. {I'm not sure that the bride knows today whom she's married to!}

...Once I called the bride by the name of the grooms former girlfriend during the ceremony!

...I've had a groom faint in the middle of the ceremony

...a bridesmaid and groomsman go to the floor.

...I've had the groom arrive drunk

...the best man paint "HELP" on the groom's shoes so when he knelt to pray all could see his sign of distress

...once a best man forgot the ring and left it in the truck in the parking lot...and he ran out during the ceremony to retrieve it Then there was the reception when the person responsible for bringing the food forgot it!

There was the bride that came stumbling down the aisle wearing spiked heels for the first time--wobbling back and forth.

...the guest organist who showed up and asked, "How do you turn this on...and what are these things {the stops!}"

...there was one when the bride arrived 45 minutes late because the limousine broke down on the way to the church

...once a best man handed me an envelope with the honorarium...only when I opened it, it was empty-- thank you very much!

#### THE WEDDING JESUS ATTENDED

Jewish weddings in Jesus' day were incredible events with feasts lasting up to 7 days!

...people came from miles around

...the host provided everything for the guests

Jesus and His disciples attended a wedding at Cana in Galilee that ran out of wine! Disaster!

...someone suggested that maybe the disciples drank too much!

...the reputation of the host was at stake.

This was the typical Jewish wedding reception where the best wine was served first, when the palate is fresh and expectant. After a few bottles of that...who cares? The cheap stuff could be opened.

...but for some reason the host had miscalculated the amount needed  
...he had to be incredibly embarrassed!

Wine is the symbol of joy and this occasion was quickly going to become very joyless if someone didn't do something...and Beverages and More and The Wine Club were closed...and Curt Sperling wasn't born yet!

#### ENTER JESUS' MOTHER

Embarrassed for the host, Jesus' mother says to Him: "They have no more wine!"

What was her rationale? Many have speculated.

...perhaps she knew the host--may have been a relative

...she may have said, "Let me talk to my son--He can fix anything!"

...some ancient apocryphal accounts of Jesus' childhood suggest that maybe He had "practiced" at home from the time he was just a toddler That brings us to the interesting, but brief, conversation between mother and son...

"They have no more wine, Jesus!"

"Dear woman, why do you involve Me? My time has not yet come!"

Whatever her reason, it is obvious that Mary knew Jesus could fix save the host from this embarrassing dilemma so she ignores Jesus' response and says to the servants: "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU!"

#### THE MIRACLE

"Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. "Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim.

"Then He told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'

"They did so and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had 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 then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but, you have saved the best for the last!'

"This, the first of His miraculous signs Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him!"

Those six (6) empty pots were filled to the brim with water...

...it was then that an incredible transformation took place

...and that first miracle produced between 120-180 gallons of premium wine...from Jesus' private reserve!

...Jesus saved the party...joy was restored!

A little boy came home from Sunday School and his mother asked him what he had learned that day. After a short pause the boy said, "Today we heard the story of how Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding."

"And what did you learn from that story?" asked his mother. After thinking a bit, the boy replied, "Well if you're going to have a wedding, make sure Jesus is there!"

#### APPLICATION

So, what does this all mean to/for us this morning?

It tells us that if Jesus can change water into wine and perform an incredible transformation--He can/will do the same for us...for our neighbors...our friends!

Jesus wants us to be filled with JOY--abundant JOY...but a number of you have lost your joy and you cry out to God: "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation!"

...some have come this morning saying: "There is no wine!"

...where can I go?

...what can I do?

...I need a miracle!

Friend, you've come to the right place!

If your jar is empty and needs to be filled--give it to Jesus.

God will fill them to the brim with His Spirit and and you will experience a transformation such as you've never witnessed before in your life!

...wine is the symbol for joy

...wine is the symbol for the Holy Spirit

Lift your empty vessel to Him this morning and let Him fill it to the brim!!!! The best is yet to come!

Do what Jesus tells you to do...and you will experience His glory...and witness a miracle!!