



EXPERIENCING THE ABUNDANT LIFE: JOHN 2
“A TRANSFORMING BLESSING”
JOHN 2: 7-11

JOHN'S GREAT THEME OF HIS GOSPEL IS FOR PEOPLE TO KNOW NOT ONLY THE FORGIVENESS WHICH JESUS BRINGS TO ONE'S LIFE, BUT ALSO THE ABUNDANT QUALITY OF LIFE(20:31). IN HIS GOSPEL ACCOUNT WE ARE GIVEN BOTH EXPLICIT TEACHING WITH REGARD TO THAT LIFE AND ALSO ILLUSTRATIONS OF IT. THIS MIRACLE SHOWS US MANY THINGS---IT NOT ONLY SHOWS US THAT THIS ABUNDANT, ETERNAL LIFE COMES ONLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, BUT IT ALSO REVEALS THE SPECIAL BLESSINGS WHICH COME TO US THROUGH THIS LIFE. THE BLESSING OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE, LIKE THE WINE IN THE STORY, IS PURE AND UNMIXED. THE GOVERNOR OF THE FEAST IS NOT ONLY AMAZED AT THE FACT THAT THERE IS ANY WINE LEFT, BUT HE IS STILL MORE AMAZED AT THE QUALITY OF THE WINE. GOD'S OFFER OF ABUNDANT LIFE TO US IS BETTER THAN WHAT THE WORLD COULD EVER OFFER US.

I. THE BLESSING OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE DEALS WITH OUR DESPERATE CONDITION OF NEED

MARY AND THE WEDDING COUPLE HAVE RUN OUT OF WINE; THEY ARE IN A DESPERATE CONDITION OF NEED. WHEN WE ARE UTTERLY EMPTY AND DESPERATE THEN WE CAN BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE THE BLESSING OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF CHRIST.

WHAT THE WORLD MAY OFFER AND GIVE MAY SATISFY FOR A BRIEF TIME, BUT IT IS GOING TO RUN OUT, AND WHEN IT RUNS OUT, THERE IS NO MORE. THERE IS NO MORE WINE---AND NOTHING COULD BE DONE. BUT THEN SUDDENLY, JESUS CAME! WERE WE NOT IN THE SAME DESPERATE CONDITION. WE WERE AT A POINT WHERE WE COULD DO NOTHING FOR OURSELVES, AND THEN, JESUS CAME, AND HE GAVE US LIFE!

II. THE BLESSING OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE ENTIRELY CHANGES US

WATER INTO WINE! THIS IS A PICTURE OF CHRISTIANITY; IT IS TRANSFORMING. THE IDEA THAT CHRISTIANITY IS SOMETHING WE ADD ON TO OUR LIFE, OR A DECISION TO LIVE A BETTER LIFE, ETC.—NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM WHAT THIS MIRACLE TEACHES US. BECOMING A CHRISTIAN AND LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS A TRANSFORMING ACTION OF THE POWER OF GOD. IT IS A RADICAL TRANSFORMATION.

APPLICATION

THIS PARTICULAR MIRACLE SIGNIFIES THAT THERE IS A TRANSFORMING POWER ASSOCIATED WITH JESUS. HE CHANGES THE WATER OF JUDAISM INTO THE WINE OF CHRISTIANITY; THE WATER OF CHRISTLESSNESS INTO THE WINE OF RICHNESS AND FULLNESS OF ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST; THE WATER OF THE LAW INTO THE WINE OF THE GOSPEL.

Thought for the week: “The Bible promises no loaves to the loafer.”

Verse for the week: “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.” (Prov. 3:7).