

2009

Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

Blessings

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Blessings

Sunday July 19, 2009

Bob Bradley

John 2:1-11

1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

The Lord being our helper; we would like to talk about a few things there tonight. In the first verse that I read to you, it says:

1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

What they are talking about is three days after the discourse here, or after the events here with Nathaniel that happened in chapter one. Three days after that is when this marriage in Cana of Galilee took place. Cana was a short distance from Nazareth where Jesus had been brought up. You probably as things I have read and things I have looked at; you probably could have seen Cana from Nazareth where Jesus had been brought up. When Jesus was growing up, He probably visited Cana many times and played in the streets and all kinds of different things. It was just a short distance away and no doubt, Jesus was familiar with that.

The Bible says there was a wedding there. There was wedding in Cana of Galilee. The Bible says here that the mother of Jesus was there. There are some things that we don't know. We don't know actually who was getting married. We don't know what relation that Mary and Jesus might have been unto those who were getting married. We don't know all those things. Probably, if we understand history, and we understand their culture and we understand the things that they went through and how that they did things; one of the people who were getting married was probably some relation here to Mary and to Jesus and the family—probably. Be that as it may, we know that Mary was there.

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

That's a good thing. Isn't it? That's a great thing when people invite Jesus Christ to the wedding. If we would invite Jesus to more weddings today, we wouldn't have near as many problems in the home.

People get married today and I believe sometimes they don't stay married longer than their wedding cake does to get stale. Do you know what marriages need today? We need to have Jesus Christ in our marriage. When we have Jesus Christ in our marriage, then He will bless it. God is the One who instituted marriage. When we go all the way back to the book of Genesis, marriage was something that God ordained and something that God has instituted. God has established the home. It's something great for mankind. Marriage is great between a husband and a wife. It is a wonderful thing. Not Jim and John and not Mary and Susie; but between a man and a woman; marriage is a great thing. It's been ordained of Almighty God. It's a great and wonderful thing.

The Bible says that Jesus is here. Mary is here. His disciples are here. I thought about this scripture many times over the years. No doubt, there was a big crowd during a Jewish wedding. It was a great big event. We usually have a wedding now and it may last fifteen or twenty minutes, but during this time, the wedding ceremony itself would last for a week. We know they would get married. They would have all kinds of things that went on, but the wedding celebration itself would go on for a week because it was something that meant something unto these folks.

The Bible says that Jesus is here. Do you know what the Bible also says? That Mary and also the disciples; they are also here at this wedding.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

Do you know what it tells me here? If I understand things correctly, no doubt, Mary is going to be serving. She is going to help give out the food, serve the food and drinks because they were going to do this here for seven days. However, do you know what happens here? The Bible says that they had run out of wine. The first thing I want to say here is this. When some people read this, they try to take this scripture and they try to prove that Jesus is teaching here its okay to get drunk. Do you know what friend? He's not saying that at all. He's not telling you and me that it's okay to drink a little bit now and then. That is not what He is talking about. They had run out of wine during this time. In the land of Israel, they did not have good water to drink. They would take grape juice and they would dilute it down with water and they would drink it. It was something here that they did all the time.

Again, Jesus here is not saying its okay to get drunk. He's not saying here that it is okay to do these things; but I will tell you this tonight, friend. Do you know what is going to take place here? He is going to do some great things, but there are some things here that we may want to learn on down the road. The Bible says they wanted wine. They had run out of wine.

If you read the scriptures, it speaks about joy. When the drink offerings, back in the Old Testament, when they would bring their drink offerings and pour them out—do you know what they were pouring out? They were pouring out wine. It would be poured out upon the coals and the vapor would go up into heaven.

Friend listen. It's amazing when we look at the scriptures, what God has done. Not only that, but it's amazing that God wants His people to experience joy. Doesn't He? It's great to have joy in your life. Isn't it? It's great to know you have all that you need. That's really what joy is and joy produces that. When we have all that we need, and we know that we are on our way to heaven, and there is nothing like it tonight. We don't owe anyone any apologies. There is no sin that we know of in our lives. Then do you know what we can have? We can have joy. We can have joy that's unspeakable joy and full of glory. I thank God for that.

When they had run out of wine, there is no doubt that Mary is serving here. She is passing out the drinks and the food and everything that is here. She is serving. Do you know what is going to happen here? They run out.

Do you know what I have thought about many times? I was at a wedding one time, many, many years ago when they run out stuff just a few minutes into their reception. They run out of stuff to eat and things like that. I don't know whether they didn't plan on this many people coming; I don't know. I thought about those poor folks that were there; the ones taking care of the wedding. I thought how embarrassed they must have been when people stood in the line coming up to get something to eat and there was nothing else to eat.

Mary was human. Do you know what she also understood? She didn't want anybody to be embarrassed but she also knew something else. Do you know what she understood? She could remember about 30 years ago, when there was an angel that appeared unto her one day and said, "Mary thou art highly favored of God." The Bible says that Mary could remember when the angel said, that "The Holy Ghost was going to overshadow you and you are going to conceive. You are going to bring forth a son and His name is going to be Jesus. He is going to save His people from their sin." Do you know what Mary could understand? She could remember that happening. Not only that, but she also understood that He was the Messiah. When we understand some things about Him then that also makes it easier to ask Him to do some things. When we know who He is then we can ask Him to do some things.

Did you ever read Psalm 69? There is a scripture in that, or a portion of scripture in Psalm 69 that I never did really think much about until here recently. Mary was a virgin. She conceived by the Holy Ghost. She gave birth to Jesus and she wasn't married.

Get this.

There is no doubt in my mind, for many, many years; she was ridiculed. People talked bad about her. When you read Psalm 69, there is a verse in there that talks about a song that the drunkards had. Those that were drunk, those that would drink and those that would get drunk had a song, no doubt, about Mary and about Jesus here. Do you know why? It is because everybody ridicules.

When something like this would happen in a little city like Nazareth, do you know what everybody would do? Everybody would talk. Everybody would want to run people down.

Mary had been thinking about things for all these years. She knew that Jesus was the Son of Almighty God. She knew that He was the Messiah. She watched Him grow up. She had raised Him. She had been around Him for thirty years. She knew exactly who He was. She understood who He was and do you know what she was going to say to Him? She said...

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

Could you imagine all the ridicule that she went through? No doubt, this had happened thirty years before. However, there were still yet people who were living in the town. Everywhere she would go they would bring up things of her past.

Listen.

I am glad of something today that even when I do mess up; I'm glad that there's a God in heaven that will forgive me. He will wipe the slate clean. Do you know what He will never do? He will never bring up the sins of the past unto me.

Mary didn't do anything wrong. There was no doubt in my mind that she was ridiculed. There were those who were sitting in the fire down there. They may have sung songs about her. They may have said all kinds of horrible things about her and Jesus. That did not change the fact that He was the Son of Almighty God. They may have ridiculed. They may have run down. They may have said all kinds of things. However, that did not change the fact that He was and is the Son of Almighty God. Do you know what she says?

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

Do you know what she wanted Him to do? She wanted Him to bring or produce some wine here. Do you know why friend? She knew who He was. She knew some things about Him. There is no doubt in my mind that she understood some things.

Isn't it great that we have a God to call upon in a time of need? We have someone that will hear us. Not only do we have someone who will hear us, but we have someone who will answer us in a time of need.

At a social gathering, His mother says, "Jesus, they have no wine."

Now here's the response.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

Do you know what He is saying? "Woman" was a very respectable term. He was not running her down. He was not being a smart allec to her. This was His mother. He used the same word when He was hanging on the cross and when He was dying. Do you remember? He said, "Woman, behold thy son..." when He is speaking to John from the cross.

This is a word of respect. However, do you know what He is telling her? "What do you want me to do about it?" That is what He is saying in the original writings. She says this.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

That's good advice from a mother. That's good advice from a woman here to tell people something; whatever Jesus says unto you, do that. That's good advice. Isn't it? Mother's should tell their children whatever Jesus says unto you do; do that because if we know who Jesus Christ is and we know that He is the Son of Almighty God and we know that He is going to do some great things; then do you know what we need to be doing? We need to be sharing it with people and telling people that they need to be listening to the voice and doing those things that the Son of God is saying.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Here they are at a wedding. They run out of wine. Jesus' mother says to Jesus, "They have no wine." Do you know what I thought about when I was studying on this today? If you were going to a wedding and we were at a wedding; do you know what we would be looking at?

I thought about the other night, when we walked up here, when Josh and Jessica got married; there was nobody looking at us. Do you know what? They weren't worrying about the groom. Do you know what the crowd wanted to see? They wanted to see the bride when she came up. Do you know what people want to see at a wedding? They want to see the bride. They are wanting to what kind of a gown the bride has on.

However, at this wedding here; it was not going to be the bride that was going to be important because she is not even mentioned. Do you know what else here is not mentioned? The groom is not mentioned in this wedding. However, do you know what is mentioned here? There are some old clay or stone waterpots that are mentioned. No doubt, the Bible says...

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

We talked about this morning, about the Jews when they went into the temple how that they had to wash their hands and feet.

These old stone or clay pots that were here, that's what they were. They were pots that were used to wash their hands in. They were pots that were used to wash their feet in. They also had pots they would wash their pots and pans in. They were always washing and doing all kinds of things. Do you know what I thought about these old pots? They are just sitting here. They are probably just in the way. They are probably trying to get them out of the way at this wedding. However do you know what Jesus is going to do? He is going to take some old waterpots here that is just good for washing and He is going to teach us (you and me) some great things here in a lesson that we need to know. Do you know what Jesus says here? He says, "You take these waterpots and you fill them unto the brim."

Do you know what friend? You and I; do you know what we need to be tonight? We need to be just like these old waterpots. We need to be "empty" waterpots. We need to be empty. When we come to Jesus Christ, we come to Him. We don't have anything to offer Him. When we come to Him, it's just us. That's all it is. We don't have one thing that God needs. We don't have one thing that God can't do without. It's great when we come to Him; He can fill us.

Do you know what we try to do a lot of times? We try to come with the waterpot already full when we come to Jesus. These old waterpots are sitting there. They might have been trying to be pushed out of the way. They might have been trying to be covered up. They might have been trying to be hid from all the wedding party. Do you know what Jesus is going to do? Jesus is going to use these old waterpots to bless a lot of people.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

The Bible says there are six of them. They hold two or three firkins a piece. A firkin was probably eight, nine, or ten gallons. These would hold several gallons. Jesus says...

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

When you and I get saved, we should be, we will be—when you and I come to Jesus Christ, we will be just like an old empty waterpot. We might have a few cracks in us. We may not real good. We may not be a whole lot of use to many people. We might not have much value to us. But here's the thing. When we come to Jesus Christ, if we will allow Him to fill us; He can and He will fill us. Here's the great thing about that. We can't fill ourselves.

Do you know what a waterpot cannot do? A waterpot cannot fill itself. Can it? You and I cannot fill ourselves. We can't do that. However, do you know what Jesus Christ can do that and He does do that? Here the waterpots are empty and old. They have been around for many years. They probably tried to push them out of the way, to get them out of the way for the wedding and all the things that were going on. Here Jesus is going to use them to bless not only this bride and groom, but also all those that were there; He was going to use these to be a blessing unto a whole bunch of people.

Do you know what God will do for you and me if we will allow Him to? God will fill us. God will bless us. God will use us to be a blessing to whole lot of other people if we will just let Him.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

So, here is what Jesus did. He said, "Fill the waterpots up with water." It was just common, everyday water. There wasn't anything special about this water. He just put it in the pots or the servants did. He made a simple statement here. He said, "Draw out and give unto the governor." Do you know what the Bible says here that they do? The Bible says...

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

Here's what they do. They draw out the water that had been wine. They draw it out and they take it and give it unto the governor. The governor didn't know where it came from, but the servants knew where it came from.

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

Do you know what happens here? They dip out the water and somewhere between dipping it out until it gets to the governor; it is transformed from water into wine. I can't do that. Can you?

It takes years to make wine. Well it probably doesn't take years, but it takes a while to make wine. It takes several months to make wine; to make that ferments. It takes a while. It doesn't with Jesus Christ because He is the God of nature. He's the God who can do all these things.

They dip it out and they take it and give it to the governor.

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

He is recognizing here that the wine he is drinking now is whole lot better than the wine he was drinking before. He didn't know where it came from. He didn't know how this all came about.

The think I want us to remember tonight out of this story is this. Jesus Christ will use us just like He used these waterpots, if we will allow Him. When you and I get saved, we are filled with the Holy Spirit of God or the Holy Ghost. We are indwelled the very moment we get saved. We are baptized by His Spirit into one body, every one of us are. We are filled with His presence.

We are just like these waterpots. We cannot fill ourselves. They did not fill themselves up. They can't even dip anything out and give it to anybody else. They can't do that. Many times we cannot do that. However, we can allow Jesus Christ to fill us. We can allow Jesus Christ to use us to be a blessing to other people if we just will. If we just will be obedient and listen to His voice and do what He asks us to do then Jesus Christ will bless us.

The thing I thought about today is this. In my life and in your life, if you say you're a Christian today and your life is not any better today than it was before you supposedly got saved then you never got saved. Living a Christian life is a blessed life. It's a life that is filled with joy. It's a life that can be filled with happiness, if we will just allow the Lord to fill us with His presence and use us for His glory. We can be a blessing to people.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

If we will allow the Lord to fill us, then He will do that, but as He does that and He uses us to be a blessing to other people. Then do you know what we can do? We can have more faith in Him. That increases our faith. When God does something for us, then that increases our faith. When God answers a prayer for us that should increase our faith in Him. Shouldn't it? It should do that and it will do that if we will just listen to Him and be obedient to Him.

Are we willing today to allow God to use us? Are we willing today to allow God to fill us? Are we willing to allow God to dip into our lives and take something out and be blessing to other people? Are we willing to do that?

The choice is yours. You get to choose today whether you want God to bless you and to be a blessing to other people. Or, are you just going to wander around in this life and just sort of wander around and never do anything for the glory of God. You get to choose that.

I promise you something. God will bless you. God will use you. God will dip out of your life and be a blessing to other people if you will just allow the Lord to. That's your call. That's your decision.