

Jan 24, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

**James Haymon
Jose Cisneros**

Class Leaders:

**Inreach: Pat Hester
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Just as our body needs daily food,
so does our spirit

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
I need Thee every hour, most
gracious Lord, No tender voice
like Thine can peace afford; I
need Thee, O I need Thee, every
hour I need Thee! O bless me
now, my Savior, I come to Thee.
—Hawks

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
*And my God shall supply all your
need according to His riches in glory
by Christ Jesus.*
(Phil 4:19 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Jan 24, 2008)

**Series: SACRED GIFTS AND
HOLY GATHERINGS**

**UNIT: Four Wedding and
a Funeral**

NEXT WEEK

**Death and Resurrection
(John 11:38-44)**

A Wedding in Cana John 2:1-12

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews how God is at work in the earthly life of the Lord Jesus as He attended **A Wedding in Cana**. The **study's aim** is to understand that God is at work in our lives in every detail and circumstance. The **study's application** is to so order our lives in obedience to God that we will be "in on" whatever He is doing.
(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Today's lesson is dramatically situated in a wedding, but the focus of the story is not the bride or the groom. In fact, we don't even know their names or anything about them. But that's not important since the wedding serves only as a backdrop to Jesus' first miracle. The Old Testament is loaded with wedding language. Some of it is literal (example: Genesis 29:22-28, lesson 5), and some is figurative (example: Psalm 19:5). Some is positive (example: Isaiah 62:5), and some is negative (example: Jeremiah 7:34). A wedding was always a big deal in the world of the Bible, and some of Jesus' teachings drew on imagery from wedding celebrations (see Matthew 9:15; 22:2-14; 25:1-3; Luke 12:35, 36; 14:7-11). Jesus used such illustrations because marriage celebrations were a well-known and popular feature of village life, allowing a pause in the grind of a difficult existence that required long hours of work. Weddings were cherished occasions. There were variations in the way village weddings were celebrated, but a regular feature was a large, festive meal, where the guests were treated to abundant food and drink. Dancing and singing of traditional songs were also staples. The cost of hosting such an event was high, and the bridegroom might hire a coordinator or steward to manage things. Since customs of honor and status naturally led to comparisons with other wedding celebrations, no bridegroom would have wanted to be seen as miserly for scrimping on this very public event. Villages had long corporate memories! Instead, the tendency was to provide a wedding feast so lavish that the bridegroom would be thought of as a generous person who met his village's expectations in abundant ways.

Have you noticed how churches treat claims of miracles differently? Churches that can't seem to say enough about miracles have mottoes like, "Expect a miracle," or "This is a place of miracles." These can be exciting places, where the Spirit of God is said to be moving dynamically and frequently. However, some of the members of these churches may feel left out because they are suffering and no miracles come into their lives. Other churches feel like places where miracles would be unwelcome and embarrassing. Faith is a rational matter in these churches, and the Christian life is based on obedience, not signs and wonders. Don't expect a miracle, because "God helps those who help themselves" (a saying mistakenly attributed to the Bible). We gain clarity when we understand the purpose of miracles from the Bible's perspective. Miracles were not just Jesus' way of helping the helpless. They were a way for him to show his divine glory and bring unbelievers to faith as a result. Sadly, that did not always happen. Even resurrections did not compel everyone to believe (Luke 16:31; John 11:43-54). Doubtless there were scoffers at the wedding in Cana when the story got out about the water turned to wine. But hearts that acknowledge miracles "belong to those . . . who have faith and are saved" (Hebrews 10:39).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

THE INVITATION (JOHN 2:1-2)

Family involvement (1)

Involvement of family to display kindness (Ruth 3:9-11)

Involvement of family by taking up for one another (Gen 34:25-27)

Involvement of family to share in service (Mark 15:40-41)

Involvement of family in passing on of faith (2 Tim 1:5)

Christian involvement (2)

Involvement through building one another up (Rom 15:1-2)

Involvement through bearing with one another in love (Eph 4:2)

Involvement through forgiving one another (Col 3:13)

Involvement through sharing one another's suffering (Heb 13:1-3)

THE CRISIS (JOHN 2:3-5)

Needs not met (3)

Do not worry about needs not being met, seek God's kingdom (Matt 6:31-34)

The blameless in times of need will be able to endure (Ps 37:18-19)

God does not withhold any good thing from His people in times of need (Ps 84:11)

In times of need learn to be content (Phil 4:10-13)

Bad timing (4)

There is a time for everything, including bad things (Eccl 3:1)

At the proper time, God will provide a harvest if we don't give up (Gal 6:9)

We must at all times be prepared (Matt 25:5-10)

We need to keep watch because we don't know the time of Jesus' return (Matt 24:42-46)

Need for guidance from Jesus (5)

Guidance into the truth (John 16:13)

Guidance into the unity of the faith (Eph 4:11-15)

Guidance that is always available (Ps 48:14)

Guidance to follow Jesus (Matt 16:24-25)

THE MIRACLE (JOHN 2:6-8)

Using existing resources (6)

By being content with what you have (Phil 4:12)

By working hard with your own hands (1 Cor 4:12)

By depending on God's grace (2 Cor 12:9)

By realizing that God will never forsake you (Heb 13:5)

Requires obedience (7-8)

Obedience that is consistent with God's will (Isa 58:6-9)

Obedience that delights God (1 Sam 15:22)

Obedience that is from humble, praying, repentant people of God (2 Chron 7:14)

Obedience that is bold and steadfast (Dan 3:16-18)

THE RESULT (JOHN 2:9-12)

Experience is necessary (9)

Experiences that can be used to help others (2 Cor 1:3-4)

Experiences that changes one's life (Acts 9:1-6)

Experiences that may be compelled (Mark 15:21)

Experiences that help us understand what God wants us to do (Acts 10:9-20)

Experiences that cannot be avoided (Jonah 1:15-2:1)

Always do your best (10)

Do your best by working with all your heart (Col 3:23)

Do your best by doing whatever the situation requires (1 Cor 7:24)

Do your best by serving wholeheartedly (Eph 6:7)

Give God the glory (11-12)

Give God the glory as part of our thanksgiving (2 Cor 4:15)

Give God the glory because in all things God should be praised (1 Peter 4:11)

Give God the glory because we are owned by Him (1 Cor 6:20)

Give God the glory because we are to give God the glory in all things that we do (1 Cor 10:31)