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WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR WINE RUNS OUT?

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JOHN 2:1-10

PRAYER

The first miracle of our Lord took place in a town called Cana of Galilee. The event was a wedding. Cana was an inconspicuous little town that lay outside of Nazareth. Cana had no social prominence in its day! In fact, biblical scholars took 1800 years before they could figure out just where this town was. Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus and his disciples had all been invited to the wedding. Because social standing was so important in the Jewish culture of this time, we assume that this was a “peasant” wedding. Otherwise, Mary, being a peasant, would have never been invited. It’s interesting to note that Jesus’ ministry, like his birth, began in a small, unimportant town, to common every day folks.

Weddings were, and are, a big deal in the Jewish culture. There is a certain protocol that was to be followed. If the bride were a virgin, the wedding occurred on Wednesday. If the bride a widow, the wedding came on Thursday.

The wedding ceremony would take place late in the evening after a time of feasting. The father of the bride would take his daughter on his arm, and with the wedding party in tow, would parade through the streets of the village so that everyone could come out and congratulate the bride. Finally the wedding party would arrive at the home of the groom. The wedding actually took place in the front door of the groom's house. It was no short ceremony....no, the festivities lasted for days. It was a time of great celebration.

After the wedding ceremony the bride and groom walked through the streets accompanied by flaming torches. Their attendants walked with them keeping a canopy over their heads. The wedding party always took the longest route through the village so that as many people as possible could wish them well.

There was no such thing as a honeymoon! No, the couple kept open house for a week. They were treated like royalty. They dressed in fancy clothes and many times actually wore crowns on their heads. Whatever desire they spoke for...they received. Their word was law!

The groom's family was expected to provide all the refreshments for this week of festivities.

That's where we pick up our scripture: Read **John 2:1-11**

However, shortly after the feast begins, a tragic thing happens. After only three days into the weeklong celebration, the wine runs out. And that's what happens in many of our lives today. Soon after you start serving the Lord, doing God's Will... walking in a Christ-like way – such as turning away from sin, leaving ungodly or unholy folk behind, changing your lifestyle, being a bright light of hope - your wine begins to run out.

You see, the feast represents the celebration of our new life in Christ. Remember wine was the customary drink at wedding feasts, and just as people are joined in marriage or union, so are we with Christ as we accept Him as our Lord and Savior and receive salvation. Therefore, this new life in Christ ought to be like a feast that never ends. And at this feast, the wine that is being served is symbolic of your joy, your peace and your hope in Jesus Christ.

But for whatever the reason just as we begin to have energy, enthusiasm, joy and hope in our new union with Christ - we run out of wine. We run out of joy. We look good on the outside, but on the inside, we're empty. We've run out of hope. We become spiritually bankrupt, empty, depleted and exhausted. And there's nothing left in storage. Nothing left for us to pull from. And as a result, our Praise has become Passive. Our testimony of God grace and mercy is not spoken. We become weak witnesses for Christ. We've run out of wine.

During this era, the serving of wine highlighted feasts and celebrations. It was an indictment for the family hosting the feast to run out of wine. It was unthinkable to run out of wine. Let me suggest to you today that it is also an indictment against the Church and the body of Christ to run out of joy, love, hope and peace. We ought to have so much of Christ in us that we never run out of joy, love, hope and peace.

When we run out of wine, all of our preaching, teaching, singing and service is of no value because we've run out of wine. So we find ourselves asking the question – what do I do when my wine runs out? What do I do when I feel all hope is gone? What do you do when you feel like you can't go on? How do you restore the joy and love in your life?

Let's look at 3 steps to help us refill our wine.

FIRST STEP - FIND THE SOURCE

Mary knew where to go. She knew what she had to do. She didn't waste time. She knew how to find the source. Likewise, we have to know how to find the source. We need to know how to go to God in our time of need, how to go to God when our wine runs out. For indeed, God is The Source. **Genesis 1:1** says: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Then Jesus adds in **Revelations -1:8**: *"I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*

This is our proof that Jesus is The Source. When your world is turned upside-down, when it seems as if trials and tribulations are hovering right over your head, when it seems that your wine has run out, go to The Source. **Psalms 46:1** reads, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

When things look shaky and your wineskin gets empty, we can always go back to the Source and be refilled and revived.

Paul told us in **Acts 17:24-28** - *"God made the world and everything in it - including wine and because God is Lord of heaven and earth, God does not dwell in temples made with hands; Neither is God worshipped with human hands, as though God needs anything. God gives to all life and breath and all things. And has made from one blood every nation of humanity to dwell on all the earth. God has allotted the times of our existence and the boundaries of the places where we will live, though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For in God we live and move and have our being."*

Turn to your pew neighbor and tell them, "I know God is The Source."

Turn to your other neighbor and tell them, "God is my Source."

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR WINE RUNS OUT?

SECOND STEP IS TO FOLLOW THE RECIPE.

Notice what Jesus says in verse 7: *"Fill the waterpots with water."* They had run

out of wine, but Jesus said, “*Fill the waterpots with water.*” The waterpot represents an empty vessel, which is ready to be filled. Humanity was once an empty vessel with a lost soul, but it was ready to be filled with the Salvation of Jesus Christ.

The water is symbolic of the Word of God. Jesus said, “*Fill the waterpots with water.*” When your wine runs out, you have to follow the recipe that Jesus has prepared for us. When your wine runs out, you’ve got to fill yourself up with water. You’ve got to fill yourself with the Word. If you’re going to follow the recipe, check out some of the added ingredients found in **Psalm 1:1-2** -

¹ *Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.*

One who fills himself with the Word is one who is “fully satisfied.” One who is filled with the Word is completely full with it to the point that it permeates throughout their very being. They’ve got so much Word on the inside that it literally runs over and pours out in their everyday walk with Jesus. When we fill ourselves with God’s Word, it becomes a part of our inner person. It infiltrates us. And when it becomes part of our inner person, we can say what David said, “Your Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you.” And as we fill up with the Holy Word, it will eventually become a part of us. God’s Word will become more than just mere words put together on a Bible page. It will become a living, breathing and life changing Word. Once we start to fill up on God’s Word, we’ll be able to withstand the attacks of the enemy when he comes our way; you’ll begin to experience a rejuvenation of God’s goodness in your life, in the lives of the people around you, in your church and in your community. This Word is contagious and can only be cured by making Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior.

When you are filled with the Word, you won’t have room for anything else. When you’re filled with the Word, the Holy Spirit enters into your life and you are reborn into a divine fruitful life. Not only that, but when you’re filled with the Word, you’ll be able to share it with others.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR WINE RUNS OUT?

Find The Source. Follow The Recipe.

THE THIRD STEP - FEAST ON THE GOOD WINE

The word feast (in this context) means to celebrate, to praise, to exalt, to glorify. It means to take pleasure in. To enjoy. You see, when you have found the source. When you have followed God's recipe. When you have filled your waterpots to the brim with water. Not with just any water, but with the Living Water, you'll be able to feast on the Goodness of the Lord. You'll be able to feast on the hope that has been restored unto us.

You'll be able to feast on God's everlasting Mercy. You'll be able to feast on God's grace.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR WINE RUNS OUT? Just get a hold of The Good Wine. For when you get hold of the Good Wine -

You'll never thirst again!
Your joy will be fulfilled!
Your faith will be renewed!

All because of Jesus. Jesus is The Good Wine. So come and drink of The Good Wine. Isaiah said,

*Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!*

*Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

² *Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?*

*Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.*

³ *Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.*

The more you feast on the Good Wine, the better it will 'taste' to you. You'll begin to say, "Everyday with Jesus is sweeter than the day before." The more you feast on the Good Wine, the more you'll begin to say, "He's sweet I know; he's sweet I

know; dark clouds may rise; strong winds may blow; but I'll tell the world; wherever I go; that I have found a Savior; and He's Sweet I know!"

You see every time I get a hold of the Good Wine, I understand more what Peter meant in **Acts 2:14-21** -

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

There is no such thing as a perfect wedding, perfect life or perfect person. How are you going to respond when things don't go the way that they are "supposed to," and someone threatens to steal your joy? Are you going to obey God's command to rejoice in the Lord always, or are you going to wallow in self-pity? Do you want God's kind of joy, hope, love and peace today? Then -

WHEN YOUR WINE RUNS OUT -

FIND THE SOURCE. FOLLOW THE RECIPE. FEAST ON THE GOOD WINE WHICH IS JESUS.

AMEN – AMEN - AMEN