

EPIPHANY 2  
ISAIAH 62:1-5  
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11  
JOHN 2:1-11  
JANUARY 19, 20, 2019

YEAR C

We speak often about grace. We preach and teach that we are saved by grace through faith. We also believe that our salvation is a gift from God not based on what we have done or will do. Grace has been described in lots of ways. Some say that grace is “God’s riches at Christ’s expense.” For me grace is certainly this but it is much more. Grace is God’s abundant gift of life for you and me. Grace is God giving more than we could ever hope for or ask for. God shares blessings with us that we would never expect. God’s abundant blessings are overflowing in our lives. If you were to read through the gospel according to John you would discover that the word “grace” appears only four times. All four are in the first chapter. If grace is so important why is it only used four times? The beginning of John’s gospel tells about grace upon grace. It tells us about God’s creation. The rest of John shows us God’s grace. John shows us God’s grace in a variety of ways.

Jesus, his mother and the disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Cana was only a short distance from Nazareth. It could be that the wedding was for a relative of Mary and Jesus. Mary may have been a hostess for this wedding. This is why she was told about the wine giving out.

**John 2:3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”**

The wedding celebrations in that time and place were more than our Saturday afternoon events. Weddings were week-long events. During the week the wedding guests ate, drank and then ate some more. Guests often brought gifts of food and wine to the celebration so there would be plenty to eat and drink. It would be embarrassing if food or drink ran out. At this wedding the wine ran out. The party might be over if there was no wine. The wedding couple might be

laughed at by their quests and the wedding celebration would turn into a disaster. When the wine ran out the steward told the mother of Jesus and she told Jesus. Mary knew her son and she knew that she could trust Jesus to do the right thing. She did not know what he would do especially after he told her his hour had not come but she knew Jesus would do whatever he knew was right.

**John 2:4-6 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.**

What Jesus knew to be right was to supply wine for the wedding guests and the wedding party. When Jesus gives something it is always more than enough. When he feeds 5000 there are many baskets of food left over. When he offers healing for those that are hurting it is complete healing. When Jesus gives us a teaching it is often more than we expected or wanted. When Jesus supplied wine it was more than enough. Not only was it more than enough, it was the best in quality. It was better than the wine that came before it. Jesus Christ is a God of more than enough. When he gives us something it is better than anything else because it is from God.

So often we are empty when we come to church. We live our lives during the week and we are in need of being fed spiritually by the word of God. We come from a week filled with trials and temptations. We experience family problems and we need to hear words of assurance from the Lord. Some come to church after a week when the doctor said a word we did not want to hear and we need to hear about the great healer that cares for us. Others are in financial need and they need to know that the Lord has a plan and will guide them through the hard times. Each of us comes from a place in our lives that challenges our faith. We come to church and we see other Christian people gathered. We come and we get the word of God. We come to hear this word and the Lord gives us much more than we could ever expect. We hear this word of God and the Holy

Spirit ministers to our hearts and lives and we grow in faith, wisdom and knowledge.

**John 2:9-10** When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

The steward tasted the water that turned to wine. When he tasted the wine he knew it was the highest quality. He marveled over the wine. He did not know where the wine came from but the servants knew and the disciples knew. Jesus saved the wedding party from embarrassment but there is so much more to this story than enough wine. Jesus provided more than enough. You and I have a God who always gives more than enough. God blesses us with words of truth. We often fail to understand how abundant and good this word is. Jesus became the word for us. He came to shine the light for us to see. Jesus gave us instruction so that we would be healthy in body, soul and spirit.

Jesus gave what no one would have expected. There was probably no running to the Hy-Vee to buy a jug of wine or to the liquor store. There was not time to find someone with a vineyard to have enough wine for the rest of the week. Jesus supplied what others could not supply. As we look at the water turned to wine we also see the grace of God. We see the overflowing blessing of God for the wedding party. Jesus did not promote drunkenness but he did supply an overabundance of God's blessing.

**Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.**

The wedding at Cana helps us understand that the Lord will give us what we need in all parts of our lives. Our task is to allow the Lord to care for us. We must let the Lord shower us with good things. At Cana in Galilee Jesus took

care of the physical needs by giving wine. Many believed in him because of this sign. You and I have seen what the Lord has done. We experience the blessings of the Lord and we know that God cares for us. We proclaim the message of the gospel and we live our lives allowing others to know the God we worship.

Jesus gives us more than we could ever use. He offers us what no one else can offer. God's grace is sufficient for us. Jesus is Lord. He is the God of grace and the God of more than enough. AMEN