

We have spent the last two weeks setting the table for a feast. The feast you have been prepared for is s feasting upon Jesus as the embodiment and example of God's many attributes.

We spent a week learning of the full divinity of Jesus. This is important because we needed to understand that Jesus is God. He is not a lesser form of God or a creation of God. So, when we speak of God's attributes, we should and can find those same characteristics in Jesus. We should not expect the love of Jesus to be some lesser love than the love of the Father. Neither is his jealousy, mercy, grace or any other feature less quantitatively or of a lower quality.

Last week we looked at the full humanity of Jesus. This is important because we needed to appreciate that God has given us a model of what godly living looks like. The Bible teaches us that we are to live as Jesus lived. The fact that he lived such a life of service and submission to God the Father, while facing the same temptations we face and experiencing the same humanity, should encourage us to follow his example.

And so this morning, as we begin our feast, it is only fitting that we do so in the town of Cana at another feast. So join me in . . .

Scripture: John 2:1-11

I. Jesus: Grace Personified

A. The Event

1. Nuptials
 - a) A wedding was a big deal
 - b) Gift giving
 - c) Putting on a celebration/feast
2. Need
 - a) Not "Oh well" but "Oh no!"
 - b) Running out of wine would bring disgrace

B. The Example

1. His reply
 - a) "Woman, what does that have to do with us?"
 - (1) Use of "woman" not disrespectful
 - (2) "A failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part."
 - b) "My hour has not yet come."
 - (1) Jesus is letting it be known that when he acts it will be on the Father's time & at the Father's prompting
 - (2) Jesus is letting it be known that he is acting under the Father's authority not his mother's
2. His response
 - a) Jesus showed grace by acting
 - (1) Not his problem
 - b) Jesus showed grace by excelling

- (1) Not poor quality
 - (a) Good wine
- (2) Not poor quantity
 - (a) Several days' worth (min. of 120 gal)

C. The Employment

- 1. "If you need anything, let me know."
 - a) Inconvenience VS Opportunity
 - b) Meeting the need VS Exceeding the need
- 2. Showing God's grace means that we not only act, we exceed
 - a) In our relationships
 - (1) Marriage - not 50/50
 - (2) Parenting - patience, instruction, discipline
 - (3) Friendships - forgiveness & understanding
 - (4) Family of God - Phil. 2:3
 - b) In our jobs
 - (1) Employer - treatment of employees
 - (2) Employee/Student - respect & work ethic

While the very incarnation of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection, are examples of God's grace, Jesus also served embodied God's grace. He consistently went above and beyond to meet other people's needs and show them the love of the Father.

We must follow his example in this if we are going to personify God's grace. We must change our perspective so that we see needs as opportunities to minister rather than as inconveniences with which we must deal. And we cannot stop there. As we seek to rise to the occasion, we must do more than simply the bare minimum to meet the need. We must serve with excellence in both action and attitude.

This morning, as we enter into our time of invitation, I encourage you to meditate upon God's grace and respond to it. Whether it be in the form of salvation or service.