

Sermon

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October 29.2017

Title: "Apply the Chance in Your Life" - The Glory in Cana

Text: John 2:1-11

### Introduction

-I have been to Israel, the Holy Land, many times. I had an unforgettable experience during our Pilgrim Tour as a chaplain. Some years ago, one of our members realized that he lost his airplane ticket at the airport just before entering immigration & customs. There was no E- ticket at that time.

-He was in a panic and checked all of his bags and pockets, but he could not find it. He became more and more tense. I as a leader of the tour went to four different counters to ask if it was possible to be reissued the ticket.

-Finally they contacted the travel agency in Osaka and they reissued it.

The tour group had to wait for him until he came back to the bus. So he was very worried about both his ticket and our tour members.

-That was a small incident we experienced at the airport in Amsterdam.

The Bible also tells us about unexpected incidents that took place in John, Chapter 2.

-There was wedding in the town of Cana. Jesus and his disciples were invited to the banquet. During the course of the banquet, the supply of wine ran dry. Wine was a very important drink in Israel, and especially at the banquet.

-Then Jesus performed a miracle in which he changed the water to wine. That was His first miracle which took place in the small town of Cana. They were so amazed at Him and His disciples put their faith in Him.

-Well, we can learn a lot through this miracle today because I believe nothing was impossible for Him. He is the Lord. I want to share three points with you this morning.

### Main Subjects

1. This miracle shows us the fulfillment of prophecy in the O.T.

-Isaiah 42 tells us the following:

**42:7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.**

42 : 7 こうして、盲人の目を開き、囚人を牢獄から、やみの中に住む者を獄屋から連れ出す。

-The coming Savior will perform miracles in order to show His nature, because they (the Israelites) were blind spiritually. This miracle in Cana was the first one that He performed.

-You know, the Bible is filled with prophecies. Through these prophecies God is

revealing Himself. I believe that the Creator has the foresight to tell us about future of the world.

- It is not important for us to know if the prophecy has already been fulfilled or not, but to recognize that the word of God is perfect. His prophecies must be fulfilled.
- We have to know that the Bible tells us how this world is going to be. God has his master plan for human beings, and tells us about His great plan, which is to invite us into His Kingdom. This is His purpose for all people.

2. Where there is need there is an opportunity for God to reveal His glory.

- What was the most important thing at the banquet? To keep a continuous supply of wine. And he did it. I can imagine how they were in a panic during the party, for there was no more wine!
- But remember that was the opportunity for Jesus to reveal Himself. Through this incident we can learn a very important lesson:

John 2:6 says,

**2:6 Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.**

2:6 さて、そこには、ユダヤ人のきよめのしきたりによって、それぞれ八十リットルから百二十リットル入りの石の水がめが六つ置いてあった。

- The six water pots of stone were used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.
- This is called “michbe” in Hebrew culture, and Jewish people are still keeping this custom. We have seen this michbe at every Jewish restaurant and hotel where they eat. Religious Jews are still washing their hands before they have a meal.
- But at this banquet the Jewish religion could not meet the need for more wine. My friends, there are so many religions in this world, but do they really meet our needs?
- Jesus met their need and revealed His glory. Here we have to know that our needs can bring about His intervention in our lives and can result in our surrendering our life to Him.
- Whom do you ask for help when you happen to have needs in your life?  
Do you come to the right person, Jesus Christ, who is the Creator and continually reigns over everything? If yes, that is wonderful. But if not, I encourage you to surrender Jesus Christ.
- Are you aware of the reasons why so many people came to Jesus at that time? Many people had various sicknesses, sins, being possessed by evil spirits among others things, and they asked Him for Help. Jesus revealed His glory through their needs.

3. We have to know the keeper of the secret of this miracle.

- John 2:9 says followings;

2:9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

2:9 宴会の世話役はぶどう酒になったその水を味わってみた。それがどこから来たのか、知らなかったのに、——しかし、水をくんだ手伝いの者たちは知っていた。

-The master of the banquet did not know where the wine came from. Who did know? The answer is simple; the servants who had drawn the water knew.

What does this mean? The master of the banquet is one who does not believe the Lord Jesus Christ and servants are the ones who serve the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a great lesson taught to us.

-The servants who had drawn the water knew the secret of the miracle. We also may experience His glory under the condition that we are a servant of the Lord. To be a servant of the Lord is wonderful for we may know Him and experience His glory in great ways.

-Now, how about us? Are we His servants or not? I want to encourage you to be His servant.

### Conclusion

-We have considered the glory of God through His first miracle in the town of Cana this morning. We learned three points:

1. The fulfillment of the scripture

The Bible is filled with the prophecies through which God wants to reveal His great glory. Therefore we want to know His Bible more.

2. Needs are an opportunity for God to intervene in our lives.

So we want to trust in Him in every situation because our God, Jesus Christ is with us.

3. Servants who had drawn the water knew where the water came from. We want to be His servants this week and experience more of His glory.

God bless you!