

January 10,2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "What's on Earth Is That?"

—Your Life—

Text: John 2:1~11

**2:1 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.**

**2:2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.**

**2:3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."**

**2:4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."**

**2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."**

**2:6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.**

**2:7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.**

**2:8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.**

**2:9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom**

**2:10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."**

**2:11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.**

Introduction

Happy New Year!!

Every year, many tourists to the Holy Land visited Israel that is the stage of the Bible. However, they cannot go to Israel due to the coronavirus crisis.

I have a certain memory I never forget. When we arrived Tel Aviv Airport to go back Japan, a man of our travel group realized that he lost a plane ticket. (There was no E ticket in those days.)

He could not find the ticket even though he checked pockets, bag, luggage, and other things. His face turned pale and he panicked. As a leader of the journey to the Holy Land I went to a check-in counter to explain a situation and asked to reissue the ticket. However, it was impossible.

They said that a ticket could be reissued only at an issuing country. I made an international call and asked to reissue the ticket. He was relieved finally. The other members of the journey had to wait a few hours because of this happening. He apologized humbly and genuinely. I still really remember his sincere apology.

My friend, something impossible happens in our lives (impossible to happen). It happens even though we believe we are all right.

The Bible records an incident that seems all right, but that isn't. The incident happened at a village of Cana in Israel about 2000 years ago. Jesus was invited to the wedding (a banquet). The Jewish banquet was magnificent, and it continues for about a week.

Then, they came to have no wine. It was a big problem because wine was very precious for the banquet. They probably thought that wine for the guests was all right, however it was gone. A manager of the banquet might have not prepared well or underestimated the job. Or guests might have drunk more than they expected. It might end up a serious problem.

Jesus said as below-

**John 2:7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.**

When the servant followed what Jesus said, the water became wine. The master of the feast tasted and surprised. That was most unlikely to happen.

My friends, Jesus performed a miracle (not a magic) that He changed water into wine.

The Bible records,

**2:11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory.**

Jesus' deed means that He was sent from God the Creator. It was **the work** that only God could.

Jesus Christ is the strange One. He did many works such as teaching in various places in Israel, healing the sick, forgiving the sin kindly. However, He was finally arrested and crucified. Why?

He was buried and rose again on the third day. It is Easter. Jesus is really the strange One. That strange One covers our need (shortage).

Jesus solves our problems even if they are unreasonable ones.

Today, I would like to speak about Jesus Christ according to the following two points.

#### Main Points

##### **1. The Unexpected Things Happen in Our Lives.**

We should know that it is not possible that our lives are always fine. For example, thinking coronavirus, who did imagine that Japan (world) became like this today.

Global cases of the novel coronavirus surpass 8 million (as of December 30, 2020). More than 1780,000 people died. On the contrary, they don't know how to settle the matter. On top of that, recently it is said that **the COVID-19 variant** is spreading, that is more contagious. It is no wonder that everyone would be infected with virus.

On the other hand, we don't understand how enormous number of people are damaged either directly or indirectly. The economy falls into great confusion and the government's policy unsettled. Many people are tormented by corona pandemic, that no one expected. It is our reality of life.

My friends, why does God sit by when the horrific plague is going around? Why does God just look on that many people are dying? We have many whys like this.

Let us remember the wedding banquet at Cana. The master and people involved didn't know why the wine was gone, however, the precious wine was really gone. No one understood the reason why the wine was gone at that time. However, they understood later that it was God's plan.

Let us remember first that we face the unexpected things in our lives.

## 2. He Whose Happenings Are Blessed

The happenings (shortage, deficiency, incidents, disease, etc.) sometimes became good opportunity. In the business world, people may come up with an idea and overcome happenings. It is very important thing.

How about the happening at Cana? It is not recorded that people came up with an idea to solve the problem.

The Bible records,

**2:3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."**

**2:4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."**

**2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."**

### 1) Asking Help for Need

We study here that they brought the happening to Jesus. It means that they asked Jesus for their need. The beginning of John Chapter 2 records that Mary Jesus' mother, Jesus' disciples, and Jesus were invited to the wedding. I think Jesus knew well the feeling of His disciples.

It was necessary in the Jewish society that he who wanted to have disciples, he had to be a rabbi (teacher). Even though Jesus was not the rabbi who studied Judaism, His word and deed must have been more than that of rabbis. Therefore, some of disciples followed Jesus because of His word and deed. And more important thing was that Mary Jesus' mother said, **"Do whatever he tells you."**

Mother completely trusted in Jesus like this. She believed that Jesus could solve the problem.

It was right to bring the problem to Jesus.

### 2) Bringing Necessity to Jesus

Let us study Jesus' word deeper.

**2:4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."**

When we hear Jesus' word, we think how heartless Jesus was. We may think that He should not answer like this to her who brought Him up. Yes, indeed.

However, Jesus' word has some meaning, **"Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come"**

- ① **Woman** (gyne) is an honorific word to a married woman.
- ② **“what does this have to do with me?”** You may think it strange. Mary and Jesus are mother and her child. They have a strong relationship. However, Jesus didn't think such blood relationship.

As Jesus was the Messiah who save Israel (the world), He said the word by cutting off the blood relationship. It means that Jesus was conscious of being the Messiah.

Jesus looked more important relationship than that of Mary and His. The blood relationship is blessed one, however, we don't know how long it keeps but God's family relationship keeps forever.

Jesus said,

**Matthew 12:50 For ever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”**

- ③ Jesus continued, **“My hour has not yet come”**

**“My hour”** refers to Jesus' crucifixion that is God decided time (Kairos in Greek). **The time** is the one that God decides with His sovereign power. There is another **time** (kuronos in Greek) that refers to chorological time of man's history. We live in that **time** (kuronos).

It means that Jesus was conscious of time (Kairos) that God decided the time of crucifixion. Therefore, Jesus was conscious of being the Messiah.

It is very meaningful that Jesus was conscious of being the Messiah (the Savior) when He did first miracle in His public life. We understand that Jesus spoke prospectively.

It was correct to bring the problem of wine to Him.

## **2) Meeting The Necessity**

Mary said as below-

**2:5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”**

**2:6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.**

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There were 6 jars that Jewish people used for a religious ceremony. には、Many biblical scholars thought this figure 6 is imperfect number, but it was not helpful for Judaism.

My friends, Jewish people kept Judaism that they inherited from their ancestors. However, when the wine was gone during the banquet, their Judaism was helpless. But **the water jars** were used.

When we are in need(shortage), where do we go to ask for help? Many people go to the religion that is made by human. There are Yaoyorozu no Kami (eight million deities) in Japan. The God that the Bible teaches is not like them. He is God who created the world. He is God the Almighty.

God who is in the beginning of the world can foresee our lives. Where do we go for help?

### **3) Meeting the True Savior**

People who were changed their happenings into the blessed ones had experienced an encounter to Jesus and that was very important. However, the master of the feast didn't know as below,

**2:9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom**

**2:10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”**

Please remember that the master was a person in charge, however he didn't know the secret of the wine. The servants who listened Jesus' word and followed could see the

blessed thing.

### {Illustration} A Man Who Was Called "It"

I heard a story about a certain man from a friend who was a missionary from America to Japan.

It is regrettable that there was an abusive treatment in America. His name was David Pelzar and was furiously ill-treated for five years since he was 8 years by his real mother.

He was not called his name but called "it". In English, a word it is used for a thing, not for a human. It is impolite. He told his experience as follows.

When I came home from school, I was told to do every single house chore like cleaning house, washing dishes as if I was a slave. If I could not finish everything, I was told I had no supper. I sometimes did not have any food for ten days.

I stole my classmates' lunch and ate to keep off my hunger. When my mother came to know it, she got furious. She put her finger in my throat and made me throw up food I ate.

When I talked back even a little, she hit and kicked me. On top of that, she put my hand over a gas range and made to burn my skin. I was suffering from various ill-treatments.

When I was 13 years old, a schoolteacher took me to the police, and I was given protection. Then, I was placed with a foster family and first experienced warm parents' love. However, my broken heart was hardly healed. I could not forget my feeling that I deserved to be ill-treated by my mother because I was a bad boy.

I rebelled my parents and caused various troubles at school. However, my foster parents gave me unchanging love. I gradually changed. I asked God of the Bible for help. I began to study seriously, and I enrolled in the air force after I finished high school. A few years later, I became a pilot and went to the Gulf War.

Now my wounded heart was healed. I began to give lecture meetings for encouraging children who were abused like me. My activity was recognized, and I received award from three presidents: Regan, Bush, and Clinton. This is my life.

My friends, he was ill-treated in his boyhood and spent miserable days. However, his life changed. There are two reasons of changing his life as below.

- ① He was given warm love of the foster parents and lived there.
- ② He met God of the Bible.

These are big reasons that he could be restored.

Nowadays, we are under the Covid pandemic and gloomy incidents and accidents occur around us. We sometimes are puzzled, "What's on earth is that?" However, when we look at Jesus Christ who is the Savior, we become courageous. There is even a disappointment, but there is no despair.

Jesus said,

**John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."**

My friends, you may not understand why you are suffering. However, you are all right. Jesus Christ the Savior is present here. He solved the problem of shortage of wine at the wedding by only His word. And He spoke the miraculous word to foresee His life. His first work (a miracle) at Cana is the message for all people of future generations.

How about today's message? Would you like to trust in Jesus Christ who loves you and foresees your life? There is the true help in Him.

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: "What's on Earth Is That?"

—Your Life—

Today we studied from the blessed story of Jesus' first miracle (changing water into wine). There are incidents in our lives, "What's on earth is that?" However, you are all right.

Jesus Christ is with you, who changes happenings that seem minus incidents into the one of plus. The happy life is to trust in Jesus and walk with him.

Let us conclude by reading the following Scripture.

**2:11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory.**

**And his disciples believed in him.**

\* God bless you !