



South Pacific Christian Ministries

The Wedding

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Bible Study

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Instructions

This study is designed to use questions and scriptures to enable believers to gain understanding. While it may be used for individual study, it is designed for a group setting. The Leader's Guide provides a group leader with additional information, scripture passages, and directional comments. Providing scriptures and some background helps to spur direct the discussion. Depending on the response of those participating in the study, additional questions may be required to direct them to the necessary understanding.

If you are going to lead a group discussion using this study, then we suggest that you read the summary first, and then review the discussion, including the discussion points, questions and answers. It is important to provide the Study Homework Section to your group in advance. Instruct them to ready the scriptures and answer the questions before the meeting.

If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary, scriptures and then answer the questions in the Study Homework Section. After you have completed the Study Homework Section, then compare your answers to those that you will find in the Leader's Guide.

It should be noted that this and our other studies often reference scriptural symbolism. As with the parables that Jesus told, a scriptural symbolism represents a deeper truth found within a passage or a group of passages. In order for scriptural symbolism to be valid it must line up with scripture and be supported by scripture and conform to the character of God.

All scripture references found in this study are the King James version, unless otherwise noted. Do not use or allow the use of none scripture references. In particular, books that are not part of the Bible or fictional movies and television shows. If a scripture seems questionable, compare it to the King James and Amplified versions. Also, in a group setting, do not allow anyone to dominate the discussion that will hinder others. Don't allow group members to challenge directly the answers of other group members. They should only present their own views, not challenge the views of another person. The answers presented herein, are not the final answers. These answers serve as a guide.

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About Us

South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.



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Summary

This study examines the passage in Matthew 22 and John 2 regarding the Wedding where Jesus turned the water into wine. As with any passage, we must examine it on the basis on the context and the other truths found in scripture. The passage has meaning on both a historic and factual statement of a significant miracle and symbolic representation of significant truths.

Any interpretation of symbolism from scripture must be supported by clear truths expressed through the Word in context. Interpretation of symbolism serves only to reinforce the truth, not an attempt to change it or create a new doctrine. Symbolism has value only when it enables you to gain better understanding of God's Word, His character, His ways and who you are in and because of Jesus Christ.

Symbolism in the God's Word is in line with the Parables of Jesus and the Prophetic actions and statements of the Prophets. One example of a set of Prophetic actions is found in 2 Kings 13:14 through 2 Kings 13:19. In that event, Elisha had King Joash shoot an arrow towards the east and then take the remaining arrows and strike them on the ground. The actions taken by Joash symbolized Israel victory over Syria. Since Joash only struck the arrows twice, Israel's victory was limited. A symbolic action taken by Kind Joash that made a significant prophetic statement and dictated the future for Israel.

If all you or your group see in these passages is the miracle of the water turned into wine, then that by itself is significant. As with every part of God's Word, there are multiple levels of truths to be drawn and every level will enhance the life and understanding of a believer.



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Leaders Guide

In order to gain understanding of the event of the Wedding read John 2:1-11.

John 2:1-11

- 1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:
- 2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.
- 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.
- 4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.
- 5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.
- 6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.
- 7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.
- 8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.
- 9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,
- 10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.
- 11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

The questions to consider, but not answer at this point, are:

What is the significance of the Marriage in Cana of Galilee found in John 2:1-11?

What do Jesus' action mean for you as a believer?

Ephesians 5:25-27

- 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The Apostle Paul instructed the Ephesians to love their wives as Christ also love the church, giving Himself for it. The price that Jesus paid through the Cross enables us to be cleansed from our sin. By accepting Christ as our LORD and SAVIOR, by Faith in Christ and the work of the Cross, we are made holy and without blemish. It is not our works, but His work, His Spirit, that enable us to become the glorious church. The love of the LORD for us is seen in the price He paid.



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Question

1) Who makes up the body of Christ?

- *All who have made Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior.*
{ *Ephesians 5:30*
30 *For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. }*

2) Who or what is the Bride of Christ?

- *New Jerusalem*
{ *Revelation 21:9-11*
9 *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*
10 *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*
11 *Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; }*
- *The Church*
{ *2 Corinthians 11:2*
2 *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. }*

Matthew 22:1-6

- 1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,
- 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,
- 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.
- 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.
- 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:
- 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

Consider the parable of Christ from Matthew 22, a great King sends his servants to those who he has chosen attend his son's wedding. The invitation is an honor. The event significant. The invitation itself is a statement of the recipient's standing with the King.

One after another, the servants of the King come to those who he has invited to this special event, and they all decline to attend. Again, the King sends his servants to those who he has invited, telling them that all is ready and to come. The response of some of those invited was to make light of it. While others mistreated the King's servants. Some event went so far as to kill those servants.



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The King had the power and authority to take their lands, cast them into prison, even to take their lives. Yet, those who were invited mocked the King by their actions. They showed a lack of respect, a lack of honor and a lack of fear of the King's power and authority.

Question

- 3) Whose wedding is referenced in Matthew 22:1-14?
 - *The son of the King is Jesus Christ.*
 - *The King is the Creator of All, God, the Almighty.*

- 4) Who were the ones that first received the invitation and rejected it?
 - *The Children of Israel, God's chosen people.*
 - *Anyone who rejects Christ.*

- 5) Who were the servants that God sent to invite them?
 - *The prophets*

When you consider that God was not just inviting them to attend a ceremony, but to be part of His family, their rejection is all the more extreme. Time and again, God sent His prophets to the Children of Israel calling them unto repentance and warning them of the consequence of their continued rejection. Some they ignored. Some they beat. Some they imprisoned. Some they killed.

Matthew 22:7-14

- 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Because the people rejected the king and killed his servants, he destroyed them. They lost everything, including their lives and the lives of their family. In the natural, the king would have no choice but to deal harshly with their rejection. A king can not rule when those of his kingdom make light of him. In mistreating and killing the kings' servants, their actions rose to the level of rebellion. They forfeited their own lives and that of their families through their rebellion against their King.

Throughout the Old Testament we find one example after another where the Children of Israel rejected God. They turned their backs on Him and worshiped false gods, despite all that He did for them and the words of those He sent to draw them back.



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Matthew 22:8-14

- 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.
- 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.
- 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.
- 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:
- 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.
- 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Question

- 6) Who are those who attended the wedding represent?
 - *The gentiles and those of the Children of Israel who kept their relationship with God.*
- 7) What is the wedding garment that all who attended were to wear?
 - *a robe of His Righteousness.*
- 8) Why was the one without a wedding garment cast out?
 - *They are those who attempt to gain righteousness by their own works, walking in disobedience to God.*
 - *By not wearing a garment provided, they made a statement against the King.*

John 2:1-11

- 1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:
- 2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

Question

- 9) Is there anything significant to John 2:1?
 - *Jesus rose again on the third day.*

John makes the point of stating that it was the third day which shows the significant of that fact in this passage. The only other place where the Apostle John specified a day by the number, was in the description of Mary Magdalene going to the sepulcher on the day He arose from the dead.



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{ *Note: Keep in mind that nothing in the Word is there accidentally. There are versions that are not accurate, but if a statement or fact is consistent between versions, then it should be considered a fact. We use the King James version for most references and occasionally the Amplified. We also make extensive use of the Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary along with the 1611 version of the King James Bible. We have found the King James version to be the most accurate version. }*

The fact that Jesus is called to the wedding says that His earthly family knew the groom or the bride. The Word does not tell us who the bride and groom were. It only tells us that Jesus, His disciples and His mother were among those invited to attend.

John 2:3-4

- 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, "They have no wine."
- 4 Jesus saith unto her, "Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come."

Mary, the mother of Jesus, appears to be concerned for the groom when she turns to her son to save the groom from the embarrassment of running out of wine. As the questions relay, there is more to a mothers concern for a friend and her looking to Jesus to solve the problem.

Question

- 10) Why would Mary tell Jesus that they have no wine?
 - *She was prompted by the Holy Spirit.*
 - *She also cared for the bridge and groom.*
- 11) What does the wine in verse 3 represent? It is just an alcoholic beverage made from grapes, or is there something more to be pulled from this event?
 - *God's Word, His Spirit*
- 12) Does their lack of wine mean anything more than the groom or his family had not provided enough for the wedding?
 - *Much like the ten virgins, they were not prepared.*

When you consider the spiritual condition of the people during that time, then it is reasonable to state that the reference speaks of their lack of God's Spirit in them and a lack of God's Word, the truth. The hearts of the people, in particular the religious leaders of the day, were dry and hard. The majority of the Priest, Pharisees and Sadducees had a form of Godliness, but lacked any real relationship and an understanding of the nature and character of God. They were dry and empty vessels. They had nothing to offer the people, because their hearts where empty.



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The condition of their hearts is a reasonable and consistent symbolic interpretation. Either way, it is an important point. Mary either spoke from a mother's heart, turning to her son who she knew could solve the problem or she spoke at the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus's response does not seem to fit the situation.

"Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come"

On the surface, Jesus' response seems to be a rather odd statement. Even if you examined His statement from the point of view of the position of women in their society at the time, His statement seems not to fit His character or who He is.

Jesus is not being disrespectful to His mother; nor is He saying that is not my problem. We know that because one of the ten commandments is to honor our father and mother (Exodus 20:12). For Jesus to show disrespect towards Mary, He would be violating that commandment. We also know that Jesus, cared enough to be at the wedding, so their embarrassment would be something that He would be willing to prevent.

When it comes to the things that Jesus said, as recorded in the New Testament, you must always remember that the majority of the time there is more going on than what is at the surface.

John 2:5-6

- 5 His mother saith unto the servants, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."
- 6 And there were set there six water pots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Mary instructs the servants to do whatsoever Jesus says to do. Her words declare that she knows they will consider His command strange. Her words also says that she was considered an authority that they needed to obey.

The number, type, condition and purpose of the water pots is important.

Consider:

- There are six water pots all used for the same purpose and all in the same condition.
- They are water pots used for the purifying of the Jews.
- They are made of stone.
- They are empty.
- They can hold two to three firkins apiece,
which is eighteen to twenty seven gallons of water each.



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The number six represents man because man was created on the sixth day. There are several references that support that concept. The fact that the passage points out the number of water pots, tells you that they are representative of the spiritual condition of the Jews at that time.

(As an exercise, find as many references as you can for the number six representing man.)

The Jews of the day had a religion, not a relationship with God. They did not know His ways, His character or His heart. While they went through rituals and sacrifices required by the Mosaic Law, with few exceptions, their hearts were far from God. Certainly, the worship of the day, their religion, was empty and dry.

Isaiah 29:13-14

- 13 Wherefore the Lord said, "Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:
- 14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

Having a form of Godliness without a true love of God and without the knowledge of His Word makes you a useless empty vessel.

These water pots could not be used to purify anything because they were empty. They had an appearance of being water pots used for purification, but lacked true value in their current state. Also, because they are empty, they could offer nothing to those who thirst for God.

While it was common for large water pots to be made of stone instead of clay, what they were made of spoke to their value. It is also representative of a hard heart. Without God's Word and love in us, then our hearts become hard as stone.

The fact that these were very large vessels also speaks both to their impact and their potential value. Eighteen to twenty seven gallons is a great deal. If all six pots were the same size then they could hold one hundred eight to one hundred sixty two gallons. No small amount.

John 2:7

- 7 Jesus saith unto them, "Fill the water pots with water. And they filled them up to the brim."



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Jesus instructs the servants to fill the water pots to the brim with water; not just a little, but to the brim. That leaves no space for anything else to be in the pot. The water represents God's Word, the Living Water (John 7:38). It is only God's Word, the absolute truth, that gives life. Without His Word filling our hearts we are just hard, empty vessels that are good for nothing. At best we have the appearance of something of value, but offer nothing to those who are in need.

The Word of God transforms us and brings life. His Word enables us to become shining lights in a dark world, offering life to all who thirst after righteous and freedom from sin and death.

John 2:8-11

- 8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.
- 9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,
- 10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.
- 11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

While life giving water was poured into the stone vessels, what came out was the wine of the Holy Spirit. When our hearts are filled with His love and His Word, then His Holy Spirit will transform us so that we pour forth His New Wine.

Notice too that this new wine was provided at the end and not the beginning. Just as they great outpouring of the Holy Spirit is for the last days, as God's Word declares it. A last great revival, greater than all that which came before.

On a side note, it is unlikely that the wedding guest would have drank more than a few gallons at the end of the wedding. That would leave the majority of this exceptional wine for the bride and groom. Considering how great it clearly was, they could then sell it for a great sum. That much wine of exceptional quality would be worth a lot of money. The perfect wedding gift from God.



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Luke 5:36 - 39

- 36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.
- 37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.
- 38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.
- 39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

Question

- 13) What does the phrases “old garment” and “old bottles”, and “new garment” and “new bottles” represent?
- *As believers we require constant renewing by His Spirit and His Word. We can become set in old ways and previous moves of God and fail to see what He is doing at the time.*
- 14) Why does the new wine or the new piece of garment destroy the old wine bottle or the old garment?
- *If you are stuck in yesterday, bounded up by the law and religion, then a new move of His Spirit can cause you to stumble and fall. You will either flow with His Spirit or be consumed by it.*
- 15) Why would someone reject the new and cling to the old?
- *People cling to yesterday; past moves of God, past blessings, past revelation. {Note: No new revelation can contradict God’s Word in context. If it does, then it is a false doctrine.}*
- A) Can clinging to old ways, old beliefs cause you to stumble? Why or Why Not?
- *If you are not open to what God is doing at the moment, you can find yourself standing against Him. The leaders of the day failed to recognize the Messiah because they were not in tune with God and did not know His Word and ways.*

In order to contain the new wine, we must be willing to let go of yesterday’s religion and beliefs. In particular, anything that does not line up with God’s Word and Character. We must allow God to transform us so that we can be the new vessel ready to pour forth that which gives life.

Without the new wine, we can not be part of God’s work today. Our yesterday and the lies we hold to be true, will receiving that which gives life.



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Matthew 22:7-14

- 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.
- 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.
- 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.
- 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.
- 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:
- 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.
- 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

The wedding of the Lamb of God and His bride, the Church has been declared. Many have hearts that are not right before God. Many refused His invitation. God made a way through His Son, Jesus Christ, that we could attend. He has even provided us a robe of righteousness through His son. A robe that does not just cover sin, but cleanses us from sin. Those who try to come of their own works, their own righteousness, will find themselves cast out into ever lasting darkness.

The question for each of us, is, have you answered His invitation? Have you accepted His Son as your LORD and SAVIOR? Have you allowed His Word and His Love to fill your heart? If your answer is yes, then you are about to be part of the greatest event in history. If your answer is no, then now is the time.

If you confess your sins and ask Him to be your LORD and SAVIOR, then He will cleanse you from all unrighteousness. The fact that you are participating in this study, says that there is a hunger for the truth. Pursue His Word. Pursue a relationship with God.

Matthew 7:7-8

- 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
- 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Question

- 16) What does Matthew 7:7 through 8 mean to you?



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Study Homework

Answer the following questions, using scripture to support your answers where appropriate. The goal is to gain understanding, not to adhere to short, pat answers. Don't limit yourself to the space on the page between questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet if necessary. Do not include answers based on the books that are not part of the Bible. The opinions of man and false books will hinder your walk and understanding.

Read

John 2:1-11

Ephesians 5:25-27

Matthew 22:1-14

Isaiah 29:13-14

Luke 5:36 - 39

Matthew 7:7-8

Questions

John 2:1-11, Ephesians 5:25-27

- 1 Who makes up the body of Christ?
- 2 Who or what is the Bride of Christ?

Matthew 22:1-14

- 3 Whose wedding is referenced in Matthew 22:1-14?
- 4 Who were the ones that first received the invitation and rejected it?
- 5 Who were the servants that God sent to invite them?
- 6 Who are those who attended the wedding represent?
- 7 What is the wedding garment that all who attended were to wear?
- 8 Why was the one without a wedding garment cast out?



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John 2:1-11, Isaiah 29:13-14

9 Is there anything significant to John 2:1?

10 Why would Mary tell Jesus that they have no wine?

11 What does the wine in verse 3 represent? It is just an alcoholic beverage made from grapes, or is there something more to be pulled from this event?

12 Does their lack of wine mean anything more than the groom or his family had not provided enough for the wedding?

Luke 5:36 - 39

13 What does the phrases "old garment" and "old bottles", and "new garment" and "new bottles" represent?

14 Why does the new wine or the new piece of garment destroy the old wine bottle or the old garment?

15 Why would someone reject the new and cling to the old?

A) Can clinging to old ways, old beliefs cause you to stumble? Why or Why Not?

Matthew 7:7-8

16 What does Matthew 7:7 through 8 mean to you?