

The Joy-Giver (John 2:1-11)

Introduction: *A little Bible-trivia: What are the 3 things necessary in the Christian life?* (Romans 14:17)

- I. JOY: THE OUTWARD MARK OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
 - A. Just a few passages (John 15:11; Psalm 32:11; Nehemiah 8:10; Philippians 4:4)
 - B. Jesus was not a “fun-killer”, He was invited to the Cana wedding (John 2:1-2)
 - C. Our grumpiness or lack of joy can convince others that to be a Christian must be a terrible ordeal

- II. BACK TO THE WEDDING: FREE-FLOWING WINE A SYMBOL OF JOY
 - A. Note also: Psalm 104:15 & Isaiah 55:1
 - B. The wedding host had a problem: running out of wine (John 2:3)
 - C. What are ways people today try to find fleeting happiness instead of lasting joy?
 - D. JOY: the lasting security of being in God’s care regardless of outward circumstances (Nehemiah 8:10)
 - E. Jesus is the JOY-GIVER, the source of true & lasting joy
 - F. Jesus mother asks Jesus to provide wine for the Cana wedding (John 2:3-4)

- III. JESUS PROVIDES MORE WINE (JOY) THAN ANYONE COULD USE
 - A. Note also: John 6:35; John 15:11; John 10:10
 - B. Jesus comes not to just give us a “taste” of joy but to fill us with joy (John 2:10)
 - C. He provides the “real stuff”, not a cheap imitation (John 2:10)
 - D. His gift is free, but it does not come cheap (See the price paid at the cross!)
 - E. John calls Jesus’ wine miracle a sign (a sign points to a reality beyond itself – John 2:11)

Conclusion: *Not ‘Amen!’... not ‘Praise the Lord’... but – ‘Hot Dog!’”*