

*“Living as God’s New Creation”*

Text: John 2:1-11

A businessman was selling a piece of warehouse property. The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows and strewn trash around the interior. The scene may be similar to what is going on in earthquake devastated Haiti today.

As he showed a prospective buyer the property, he took pains to say he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage and clean out the garbage. The man replied, “Forget about the repairs. When I buy this place, I’m going to build something completely different. I don’t want the building. I want the site.”

In our Old Testament lesson God says, “The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.” (Isaiah 62:2-3) God is making a change in his people and they are being transformed into something beautiful by his doing and creation.

I was watching a commercial the other day and it said, “If you want to create something beautiful, you have to start with fresh ingredients.” God has made a change in us as only he can do and it goes beyond human comparison.

What God creates or recreates cannot be duplicated because it is something that only he can do. Because of that we can rejoice as we are-

## **LIVING AS GOD'S NEW CREATION**

### **I. Even when times are hopeless**

### **II. The work of Jesus goes beyond our understanding**

#### **I.**

**A.1.** It is common for people to believe that either their problems are too trivial for God to deal with, or that he has forgotten about them. The Wedding at Cana shows us that neither of these is true. Weddings in the day of Jesus are much different from ours of today. Couples would be engaged or betrothed and this was equal to marriage. At a certain agreed time there would be a marriage ceremony and the two would become husband and wife.

The wedding itself could last for a week! It was the responsibility of the groom to provide for the food and wine at the wedding. A groom who did not provide sufficient amounts would show bad manners and this would be an embarrassment to the groom. In is in this setting that Jesus chooses to do his first miracle and as St. John tells us, "And his disciples believed in him."

**2.** Verse 3 tells us: "When the wine ran out, the mother said to him, 'They have no wine.'" Here was a concern. What could be done? On the overall scale of this was not major, but it was a concern to those involved. The things that cause our fears may not be big either. The comfort for you is that God is concerned, even though you might feel he is not. It is really all about timing. I saw a sign on a local church marquis: "Patience is trusting in God's timing." Jesus responded to Mary: "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come?"

**B.1.** After Mary instructed the servant to listen to her son, Jesus told them to fill the six twenty to thirty gallon jars with water. According to God's plans he uses available

means to accomplish his good in our life. At the feeding of the 5,000 Andrew said to Jesus, “There is a boy here, who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” (John 6:9)

We have such an example today in the bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper, which is the body and blood of the Lord. The water in Baptism, which causes rebirth, is ordinary water, but it is connected to God’s word. When I announce the forgiveness of sins it is as if God were speaking himself, I am an ordinary man. God uses ordinary means to accomplish his wonders.

**2.** Just as we cannot understand what goes on the Sacraments, the master of the banquet did not understand what had happened. It had happened outside of his viewing. The servants who had taken part understood where the wine came from as Jesus performed this first miracle. While Jesus had said that it was not his time, the time had come. It was not the time for his finished work of salvation, but it was time for helping in this time of need. I remember reading at one time that God always answers our prayers at the perfect time. At the time we may not think so, but looking back, we see that it is.

## **II.**

**A.1.** The failings and difficulties of people do not hamper the work of God. Was this poor planning? Did too many uninvited guests show up? The text doesn’t really tell us. The situation and problem were there and Jesus provided the answer. As Gabriel told Mary, “Nothing is impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37) The Apostle Paul said, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13)

**2.** As we face the problems of life, Jesus calls upon us to trust in his providing. Jesus told the servants “Fill the jars with water.” The servants did just what Jesus told them to do. I’m sure they must have wondered what this

had to do with the wine problem. After these jars were filled with water Jesus said, “Now draw some out and take it the master of the banquet.” We don’t always see the end result of what will happen in our lives, yet Jesus calls upon us to trust in him. Our situation may seem hopeless, yet Jesus calls for faith on our part.

**B.1.** Remember that the servants had poured water into the large jars. When they may have realized that it was no longer water but wine, we are not told. When it was brought to the manager of the banquet, he certainly knew. “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.” What Jesus does is always good. He works beyond hopeless circumstances and provides for the needs of all.

**2.** Mary had that faith. She knew that whatever her son told them to do would solve their problem. We can have that trust in his word. It goes beyond our ability and circumstances. It always accomplishes what God desires. Those who were present on this occasion would be receiving a great surprise and wonderful blessing; they would see the word of God at work before their very eyes.

God says: “For behold I create new heavens and a new earth, the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.” (Isaiah 65:17-18) That joy is yours too as a new creation of God! Amen.