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| **Bible life messages** |
| The Source of Real Life |
| John 2:1-11 |
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**1 The main focus for most people is to get ahead in the world. Is having the money, possessions and prestige you worked for all of your life really worth it in the end? Are wealthy people always the happiest? Or is there more to life than all of that? What does a really successful life look like?**

**The Bible, as well as the lives of genuinely happy and fulfilled people I know, tells the story of lives filled with more than the lifelong accumulation of stuff.**

**Living the life God designed for you is real life! The real question then, is how do you get the real life that will bring you the most satisfaction?**

**The first miracle Lord Jesus performed was the time He turned water into wine. 2**

**One of legendary Paul Harvey’s quotes is, “You first tell a moon shiner about a man who turned water into wine; and then you have his ear for the rest of the story.” 3**

**Your life can be like water, simple without much taste or spice. 4 Or it can be like wine which has taste, spice and enjoyment. Which one of these lives would you choose? 5**

**The Bible tells us that real life, which has meaning, purpose, fulfillment and joy, comes only through a relationship with the Lord. He is the only source of real life! 6**

**The Gospel of John, chapter 2, verses 1 through 11, give us the real source of the life really worth living.**

**Now on the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” [[1]](#footnote-1) 7**

**His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.**

**Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” [[2]](#footnote-2) 8**

**They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, “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.” [[3]](#footnote-3) 9**

**This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. [[4]](#footnote-4) 10**

**The first thing found here about the source of real life is . . .**

**I. The Wine Came from Jesus –  
Not from His Mother! – v1-5**

**The wine came from Jesus, not from His mother. 11**

**She observed an embarrassing situation at this wedding feast. She came to Jesus and made a request, They have no more wine.**

**I remember when my family celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of my wife’s parents. While my wife and her sister were in the main room honoring their parents, I was in the kitchen providing the logistics. Do they have enough cake, punch, ice cream and dishes for the guests? Are there enough utensils for everyone? It was frantic back there for awhile. I experienced what must have been the flavor of that situation.**

**The implication of His mother’s statement was that she believed Jesus could do something to relieve the embarrassment of the hosting family that would soon become apparent. 12 She knew Jesus would be in character to do something to help out. 13 She also knew He would have compassion for others. 14**

**In verse 4 here, Jesus made the rebuke. Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come. Mary, like many of us, may have believed that Jesus might not be aware of the situation. But Lord Jesus, God in a human life, is all knowing!**

**When I first read this passage, it was from the King James Version which stated, Woman, what have I to do with thee? It seemed to me to be harsh and disrespectful for a son to say that to his mother. It was out of character for the humble, respectful, Son of God! 15**

**But this is a mild rebuke. It is like saying, “Mom. I’m in full control. I can handle it”. 16 How often are your prayers to inform God of something He might not be aware of? 17**

**In verse 5, Mary, even though rebuked, continues to express her faith! She says to the servants, Do whatever he tells you. 18**

**So, what can we learn from this? Meaningful life comes from the will of the Lord Jesus, not from His mother or anyone else! 19**

**The second thing we can learn from this scripture about the source of real life is . . .**

**II. The Wine Came from Jesus –  
Not from the Water Pots! – v6-8**

**The wine came from Jesus, not from the water pots!**

**For years I thought, and read from scholars, that the wine came from the water pots. The scripture points out that they contained twenty to thirty gallons! That’s a lot of wine!**

**But I now believe that the water pots were not the source. 20**

**Verse 6 says that the water pots were for ceremonial cleansing and represented the Jewish religious ritualistic system. 21 They were used for ceremonial washing of the body and clothes. [[5]](#footnote-5) 22 This ceremonial washing was pretty important. Leviticus 15 continues, whoever touches any of the things that were under him will be unclean till evening; whoever picks up those things must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean till evening. [[6]](#footnote-6) 23**

**This washing could be for several reasons: childbirth, [[7]](#footnote-7) 24 leprosy, [[8]](#footnote-8) 25 contact with a corpse, [[9]](#footnote-9) 26 or to become a Nazarite. [[10]](#footnote-10) 27 There is even a command for this after a woman’s birth of a son and her monthly period! [[11]](#footnote-11) 28**

**So, where did the water come from? 29**

**Verse 7 says that Jesus demanded that the water pots be filled to the brim. I believe He had them do that so everyone could see that the pots were not the source of the wine! 30**

**In verse 8, when He said, Now, draw some out . . ., Jesus was not referring to the pots because everyone could see water pouring over the brim, but the original source of the water; the well! 31 Also, when Jesus said, take it to the master of the banquet, the word “take” in the original language means to continue taking wine to the master of the banquet. [[12]](#footnote-12) 32**

**So, what can we learn from this? Meaningful life comes from Jesus Himself, not from the rituals and ceremonies of religion! 33**

**The third thing we can learn from this scripture about the source of real life is . . .**

**III. The Wine Came from Jesus –  
Not from the Bridegroom! – v9-10**

**The wine came from Jesus, not from the bridegroom! 34**

**The wine, indeed, was superior! It was the best the Master of the Banquet had ever tasted! Verses 9 and 10, Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, “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. 35**

**The Master of the Banquet thought the wine was supplied by the bridegroom, by man’s efforts! 36 But the best life you can live on your own efforts offers no comparison to the life your Lord can offer you. 37**

**Meaningful life comes from the will of the Lord Himself, not from your own efforts! 38**

**What will you do with the real source of life?**

[**http://www.biblelifemessages.org**](http://www.biblelifemessages.org)

1. **John 2:1-4.** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **John 2:5-8.** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **John 2:8-10.** [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **John 2:11.** [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **Leviticus 15:8 - If the man with the discharge spits on someone who is clean, that person must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean till evening.** [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. **Leviticus 15:10-11.** [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. **Leviticus 12:2 - A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period.** [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. **Leviticus 14.** [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. **Numbers 19.** [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. **Numbers 6:1-21.** [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. **Leviticus 12:2 - A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period.** [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. **φέρω Is in the present tense.** [↑](#footnote-ref-12)