**What the Servants Know**

**Opening Scripture Text**

**John 2:1-11 (KJV)**

**Introduction**

*Have you ever felt completely unprepared for something you were asked to do at the last minute?*

This was the case of a young man who worked at a four-star hotel near his home to help pay his way through college. He had been hired to work at the front desk assisting guests with their arrival and departure, but sometimes he needed extra money and would help out in other areas of the hotel, picking up extra shifts.

One particular occasion there was a massive wedding reception that the hotel banquet facility was going to host. The banquet management team reached out to other staff members asking for as many extra laborers as possible. It was going to be a Saturday evening event that allowed the young man to work a daytime shift at the front office and then change uniforms into the banquet uniform they provided. It was a perfect setup. Or so he thought.

The night of the wedding reception came and he was in uniform. As he made his way back to the event, he was rushed to the authorized personnel only section of the back hallway of the banquet facility for a crash course on serving etiquette. He thought to himself, *Who knew there were special rules for who you served first at the table? What does it really matter which side you serve the plate or how you ask to refill drinks?*

Despite what his thoughts were, he was trying to capture all the tips and pointers the lead banquet team member was barking out as the reception music played in the background. As his mind was trying to memorize the content, someone rolled in a dry erase board with small table icons on it that were numbered. One of the other experienced banquet team members began assigning the serving team tables and pointing to the diagram. One by one the other workers received their assignments and eventually this young man was told where he would be. If his brain wasn’t still spinning from the rapid fire etiquette class, it was about to as the banquet manager looked at him and said, *“By the way, we have you at the table of the family of the bride and groom.”*

*“WHAT!?”* He thought. *“Who are they kidding? I just learned who, when, how, and what not, and other important procedures only to be told, ‘Hey, you! New guy. You get the two most important tables in the room. The people paying for the wedding and reception!’”*

He felt his heart rate increase and perspiration come across his forehead. Unfortunately he didn’t have time to back out or quit and before he knew it the words were coming out of his mouth, *“Yes, ma’am.”*

With the massive mission in front of him and equipped with training, he stepped through the doors to the assigned tables. As the evening went along, he realized it wasn’t as difficult as he had thought. He made it through with no spilled drinks, broken plates, or upset parents of the guests of honor. However, if he had it to do over again, he sure wished he had known some of the things the other servers already knew.

**Transition**

You and I are not all that different from the young man in our opening story. Or the story of the servants in John chapter 2.

**We have an assignment from the Master of ceremonies himself, Jesus Christ.**

The call to serve our others as we find our place in His kingdom.

**Jesus has called us to be servants.** We are called to be people who serve others. We may not wait on tables at a fancy banquet ballroom at a hotel, but our role is just as important as waiting on the prominent guests at the feast.

In this message we are going to look at the story of the first miracle of Jesus at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. As we walk through the story, we will discover there are things that the servants knew and that we should also seek to know in our lives.

The first point we see in scripture is, **Servants know how to obey.**

**John 2:5-8 (KJV)**

*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.*

Mary, the mother of Jesus, instructed the servants at the wedding reception to listen to what Jesus told them to do. She was basically telling them to ***obey***.

**Servants who are successful in God’s kingdom are those who know how to listen and follow through on what God has asked them to do.**

Is He calling you to further your investment in His Kingdom? Are you ready to obey?

Has He asked you to reach your community and strengthen your local church?

Are you stepping into the roles and needs right here at home?

**Obedience is important because God knows the plan and miracle that is at work when we surrender.**

When He says it’s time to fill, then fill.

When He says it’s time to draw out, then draw out of the resources and serve.

When He calls us to fill our hearts with His Word, then obey that call to the Word.

When He calls us to fill our hearts with a love for the lost, then get our eyes on the lost of the world.

**While you are serving in the kingdom of God, it’s important to listen to the right people.**

The servants obeyed Mary’s advice to listen *to Jesus.*

We need to be aware of the voices in our lives and ministry. If they aren’t pointing us to listen to Jesus, then *use caution!*

The servants weren’t listening to the voice of the masses, their ears were tuned in to the Master’s commands. *We need to be listening to the voice of the Master, not the masses!*

Surely the servants heard the cry of the people in verse 3 that “they wanted wine.”

Perhaps they could’ve run out and bought or borrowed some from somewhere.

Maybe they could’ve run to a friend’s house or the banquet hall they served in last week to see if they had any leftovers.

However, that wasn’t the plan! *They needed to wait for Jesus to show them the way.*

**While we are serving, it is important to follow the plan God has for us**.

It may not always add up when we look at it through just our human eyes, but we should trust His plan.

The servants in John chapter 2 followed the plan, but it is also interesting that it records the fact that they “filled them up to the brim” (v. 7)

They didn’t fill the waterpots halfway. Two thirds. Almost full.

No. “TO THE BRIM”

All the way up.

Are we fulling fulfilling our tasks as a leader in our local church family?

Are filling our giving to the brim or do we give the minimum required?

Is serving at the local church just something you do to stay somewhat connected or are you fully invested in the vision God has for this community of believers?

Let’s fill our lives up to the brim when we serve!

Servants know how to obey by listening to the right people and giving their best effort!

The next point we see in scripture is: **Servants know it’s the Master who provides.**

**John 2:9 (KJV)**

*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;)*

**When we are serving, working, and laboring, we cannot lose sight of the fact that Jesus is the miracle worker!**

Our work is simply being available to allow His power to work *in* and *through* us.

We must remember…

…He’s the One who moves on people’s hearts to lift their hands in worship.

…He’s the One who calls youth to AYC trips and to plant P7 clubs or be involved in Bible Quizzing.

…He’s the One who draws the children to Him.

…He’s the One who works through the prayers on a prayer walk.

…He’s the One whose voice they hear in the sound system.

…His glory is what they see on the faces of a social post

Remember that Jesus gets all the glory, not you.

This should give us all hope, because He is not calling people to see our glory or greatness, but His!

Too many people disqualify themselves because they feel unable to fulfill the calling to serve within their natural gifts and abilities.

It’s easier for you and I to make ourselves available to the work of God when we realize that’s just what it is - God’s work!

Another point we see in Scripture is: **Servants know the big picture.**

**John 2:11 (KJV)**

*11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.*

**Working and serving in the Kingdom of God is something bigger than ourselves!**

The first miracle of Jesus was witnessed by those who weren’t just in it for themselves.

Even more than just seeing water turned into wine, these individuals were able to witness Jesus as He “manifested forth his glory.”

A result of this manifestation or expression of His glory even caused his disciples to believe on Him.

The obedience and availability of the servants allowed the Master’s plan to be fulfilled and the disciples believed!

**Our willingness to obey and be available has the ability to impact others around us!**

Imagine how many people in our neighborhoods and city are just waiting on us to see the big picture!

What would happen if they see their neighbors rise up to another level?

It very well could be what causes them to believe in what God has for their lives!

**Altar Call**

**God is calling us to answer and obey the call to serve.**

It is a call that we can answer because we know He is the One who will provide.

It is an opportunity that we can participate in something larger than just ourselves and it will involve us in His great kingdom worldwide.

Are you willing to serve in His kingdom? Answer His call today!