

Life Group Notes
Sunday 19 November 2017

Speaker: Liz Green

Title: Fill the Jars With Water

Passages: John 2:1-11

5 Observations from the passage

1. Jesus invites people into His plans

Jesus could have just spoken wine into the stone jars but he invited the servants to play a part in the miraculous provision of wine. God loves to draw us into his plans, invites us to play a part; not because he needs us but because he loves us.

2. Jesus speaks a word of command before a word of blessing

Often Jesus did this; 'let down your nets', 'you give them something to eat', 'Repent and believe', 'fill the jars with water'

Jesus' instructions search our hearts and expose where our faith/trust is really at. He draws followers to himself that they might learn to trust him.

3. Jesus' commands are to be obeyed, not questioned

Filling jars with water when the presenting need was wine didn't make sense. It may also have required inconvenience and hard work.

The servants obeyed without questioning Jesus' rationale

4. Jesus evokes wholehearted obedience

The servants obeyed Jesus' instructions zealously as they filled the jars to the brim. There was nothing half-hearted about their obedience.

Revelation changes motivation. Motivation dictates response.

Revelation of who Jesus is and what he has done will generate in his followers wholehearted obedience.

5. Jesus turns the ordinary into the extraordinary

It is Jesus who performs miracles, who turns the impossible into the possible. Followers aren't expected to turn the water into wine, they are simply asked to play their part and fill the jars with water.

Followers of Jesus are to do all that they can and let Jesus use their endeavours for the blessing, provision, joy and abundant delight of others.

Questions:

- What was fresh for you in reading/hearing this account on Sunday?
- When have you had a moment of revelation that changed your motivation on something? (Doesn't need to be spiritual!!)
- In what areas of your life do you feel you have been operating 'half-heartedly'?
- Where do you sense God is asking you to 'fill the jar with water' i.e. obey him despite the fact it fills inconvenient and doesn't make sense.
- Pray for one another. Ask God for fresh revelation of the gospel (who Jesus is and what he has done)

Eph 1:17, Eph 3:19 may help you to pray

On Sunday Sean briefly spoke about five 'Only God' outcomes that RFC needs over the next 12 months to buy the Ultima building:

1. To raise £500K in cash by Oct 2018
2. To have a mortgage offer for £2.8m
3. To have an appropriate solution to the VAT burden.
4. To have Change of Use agreed.
5. For the building not be sold to anyone else.

Originally there were six 'only God' moments but we have now moved onto the site on a 12 months lease. We are, as Mark Shinn put it, already standing in the impossible! Let's keep praying for these 'Only God' outcomes in these exciting times.