

Jesus Has Saved The Best Till Now

Everyone wants the perfect wedding, don't they? If ever there is a time to get things right, today is the day, right? And this fact has never changed. In John, chapter two, we meet a man and a woman who are getting married. And they have tried their hardest to get all their ducks in a row. They have tried their hardest to make everything just right. But, there was a problem. And it wasn't a small problem. You see, back in Jesus' time this is how weddings worked: You got engaged and then shortly after that you sent out the messengers, telling everyone where and when you were getting married. And then, you get married. And for the next week you would eat and drink and rejoice with your friends and family. They needed food and drink for a whole week. And they were about to run out on the first day. This was a huge, embarrassing problem.

They wanted the perfect wedding. And, even though they tried their best, everything was about to fall apart around them. Why? In order to answer that question we go back, way back to the beginning of the bible. There we meet Adam, the first man. And then we meet Eve. Adam loves his wife. He is willing to live for her. He is willing to die for her. He *selflessly* loves his wife. Then what happens? Adam and Eve rebel against God. And what's the result? They are no longer able to love selflessly. They are no longer able to serve each other. They can only serve themselves. And so, it shouldn't surprise us that this couple here in the small town of Cana can't make their wedding day into the perfect day because they can't make *themselves* perfect.

Jeff and Melanie, when I first met you, what did I see? Did I see Adam and Eve *before* they rebelled against God? Or, did I see them *after* they fell into sin? Yep, I saw the Adam and Eve who lived for themselves, sinfully and selfishly. But, I have seen wonderful things in the last year and a half. I have seen you slowly grow into people who are beginning to not live for yourselves. Instead, you are starting to live for each other and for your daughter. And that attitude all started with a miracle. In these words in John, chapter two we find the first miracle Jesus performed. But it wasn't the last. You know what sort of Savior you have. You don't just know the Jesus who turned water into 200 gallons of really good wine. You also know the Savior who died on a bloody, Roman cross and took away your sin. You know the Jesus who came to life on Easter Sunday morning, guaranteeing that your sins are forgiven. That is what changed everything for you. That is what changed you from people who lived to take into people who live to give.

And, it would tempting to stop here. I know Jeff, you'd like to hear me say 'amen' now. But there is more to these words. Because Jesus wasn't just there with this couple on the day they got married. He was with them every day of their lives together. And, it is important for you to know that he promises to be with you both all the days of your life together as well. It is important because you will face challenges all the years you are married. And Jesus will be there with you.

Gianna is going to get bigger and older. And, as she does, Jesus will be there with you. And one of these days, whether she is 11, 12, or 13 years old she is going to do the math. She is going to realize that she is older than the number of years you have been married. And she is going to challenge you. And, on that day, Jesus will be with you, just as he is with you now. And on that day, you will boldly look her straight in the eyes and tell her "Gianna, you're right. When your father and I first met, we were sinful. We were stupid. We were selfish. Forgive us, just as Jesus has forgiven us. And, Gianna, learn from our mistakes. Don't have sex before you're married. Don't have children before you're married. That's the selfish thing to do. That's what we did. Forgive us, just as Jesus has forgiven us." And as you say words like that, Jesus will be with you then, just as he is with you here and now.

Jesus will be with you. He will be with you when your daughter asks you challenging questions. And he will be with you as you grow into what it is to be husband and wife. As you are in his word, he will teach you what it is to be a husband and wife, father and mother. Jeff, you will learn that a real man doesn't show it by the strength in his arms, but the strength in his heart. A real man is willing to lay down his life for his wife, just as Jesus laid down his life for the church. And Melanie, a real woman isn't one who takes, but rather one who gives. A real woman is one who builds up her husband and her family with her serving love. Jesus will be there to teach you this, just as he taught Adam and Eve, just as he taught this couple in Cana.

Jeff and Melanie, start your married lives together, knowing that the best is just beginning. Amen.