

MESSAGE

SCRIPTURES—1Corinthians 12:1-11 and John 2: 1-11

Signs

CRASH! You're spun around! You're not in control. You come to rest. There is a moment of assessment. Are you alright? How is anyone else in the vehicle? Are they alright?

Did someone just run a stop sign, or a stop light? Were there multiple vehicles involved? Bang! Whop! Spinning! CRASH! Take a deep breath. I apologize if this hits too sensitive a nerve for anyone. This will hit home for some of us. We are still here. God put us here today.

Signs. Stop signs and stop lights are put there to guide us. Do we see them? Do we ignore them? God puts signs in front of us, just as he did at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. Here was the first of numerous signs that his son Jesus shared. Signs, signs to lead us to the glory of God.

Home

Home can mean a number of things. Most likely we think of that dwelling place where we reside, where we find rest, peace, solace, comfort, joy, family, love. Home around the world can take many forms. Structures can be different. There might not even be a solid, physical structure, but a place just where one resides, perhaps settling down at the end of the day. I can remember the tree house in the movie "Swiss Family Robinson." I thought that was so neat. Other homes might be found in neighborhoods, apartment buildings, on the wide-open plains or lofty mountains, in shanty towns, refugee camps or prison cells.

But what do so many different places share in common? They are places where we can shut our eyes, relax, let our bodies rejuvenate, and find peace.

Jesus says to his mother when the wine gave out at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, "Woman, what concern is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come." What does this mean? Simply that his time of glory has not yet come. We might also say that our time of glory has not yet come. Do we see this sign?

Jesus is talking of that magical moment of the forgiveness of sins when he takes all our sins upon his shoulders. It is that moment upon the cross, that moment when his hour has come. It is that moment when we come to believe in him, to have faith in him. Glory shines all around us, and we too come home to live with him in heaven above.

At the wedding Jesus turns water into wine. There were 6 stone jars. Each one held 20-30 gallons. If there was an average of about 25 gallons each, with 6 jars, that would total around 125 gallons of wine. That is still a lot to consume at a celebration that has been going on for a while already. And it is the best tasting wine. The steward tasted this wine and found it to be superb. Jesus is superb! Have we seen the signs for this? The best wine was saved for last. Jesus guides us to that last best place with him, home in heaven. That is where we will find true joy, peace, comfort, love. Enjoy home today, knowing that we have an even better home to go to tomorrow.

Next week we welcome Pastor Smith. How many gallons of wine would each one of us need to bring if we were to welcome him with such a festive celebration after church? It would be an interesting celebration!

Gifts

The Lord delights in you as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride. That reminds me of the movie “27 Dresses.” If you have not seen it, it is a fun one to watch. In the movie Katherine Heigl arranges weddings and has been a bridesmaid in each one of them, 27 in all. She and her boss are having lunch and he asks her what is her favorite part of a wedding. She answers when a bride makes her entrance, and everyone’s eyes are on her, she looks at the groom. His face says it all. She sees the pure love there. The bridegroom rejoices in his bride.

What does God celebrate? Take a moment and think about it. What does God celebrate in your life? Can we name some things? God loves it when you shine. The Holy Spirit is there to guide us...to faith in God, to faith in Jesus, to faith in each other, to that moment when we find that special something bestowed upon us that gives our lives special meaning and helps us celebrate with God. Is it the sharing of wisdom, or a gift of healing, whether by body or spirit, or a gift of guidance, or some gift of sharing with others that are different, or a gift of support, or a gift of love? All gifts come from the Lord. He activates them in us. Whatever it is, the Holy Spirit is also there to help us find it and guide us as we use it, so that we don’t bury it.

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guides us. Do we see the signs given us? God delights in us when we see the signs given us. Hopefully we do not need some dramatic sign or moment. God gives us subtle signs, too. When we see them, when we acknowledge them, and when we follow them and use them, we taste the best wine. Jesus! He shares that with us, and guides us to that special home, that home in heaven.

Signs! Gifts! Home! Amen.

