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## Will You Go to

### Homecoming with Me? | *For All*

John 2:1-11

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I have experienced lots of lists in my life. Lists of chores, to do lists, shopping lists, honey-do lists, bucket lists... but there was one list that I spent the most time on and gave me the most anxiety.

Anyone want to guess? It was the wedding invitation list. Heather and I spent days, even weeks fretting over the invitation list. There is the first list, right; the one with everyone on it. Then there is the second list, a shorter list, the one that you think is more realistic. And then the third and first final list, and I call it the first final list because all along there are a couple of other people, who we call parents, that are making lists too. So, then you combine the lists and start the process all over again.

And all these decisions are based on several questions like “Do we really know them?” “Do we really like them?” “Do we really want other people to know that we know these other people?” “Can these people get along with these other people?” But the biggest and deepest question is – will there be enough? Will there be enough room? Will there be enough chairs and tables? Will there be enough food? Will there be enough cake? Will there be enough money? Will there be enough emotional capacity to deal with all of this?

My little brother lives in Bali, Indonesia and years ago he fell in love with a girl who years previous literally walked out of the jungle into modern city life. Her village had no electricity, no running water. It was a village that could have been on the front cover of National Geographic magazine. But in order to marry her he needed to convert to Hinduism, which he did – the power of love is strong. And then a typical wedding would take several years and would happen in stages because it was way too expensive as the wedding included the entire village. There were no lists. If you lived in that part of the jungle... and you heard about it... you showed up.

Think of it as a meal. You’d invite the whole village out for the cocktail hour. Then you’d invite the village out for the appetizers, the main course, followed by the desert and then the dance. This village was so poor that it would take years for families to save up enough to get all of that done. But here comes my middle-class American brother with his American dollars and the wedding took 8 hours. Boom, instant wedding. There was enough for all.

In the gospel of John, we hear about another wedding. A wedding where there seems to not be enough for all. For many of us this is a familiar story. The wedding at Cana. And it comes right at the beginning of John’s gospel as if to set the stage – to tell us of Jesus’ miraculous powers. Look... Jesus can turn water into wine. Wow... we should pay attention. And yes, should pay attention but not because of the water turning into wine but for a much deeper and more significant reason.

Here is where we need to understand a bit more about the gospel of John. The gospel writer of John’s purpose is for those who hear and read the words he has written down would come to faith in Jesus. That’s the purpose. John is not writing a chronological history. John is writing so others would come to faith. John even says that he is picking and choosing what he is putting in this gospel. So why this story... and why this early?

Well let’s read the story again and dig a bit deeper. We are going to break this down verse by verse so if you have your own bibles, you can underline and write some notes in the margins or you can use the worship folder.

#### **John 2:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding

twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Vs. 1 - 3<sup>rd</sup> day of what? John’s announcement to the world that the messiah has come.

Vs2 - wait a minute – did the wedding party really know how many disciples Jesus was going to show up with or was the invitation an open one – are they the reason why the wine ran out?

Vs3. – Jesus’ mom shows up, she is at the wedding too, must be a family wedding and Jesus’ mom must feel some responsibility.

Vs4 – now that is no way to talk to your mother, but Jesus may be a bit annoyed as if to tell his mom – this whole wine thing – it’s not on my to do- list, it’s not even on my bucket list.

Vs. 5 – the faith of a mother – or one who either witnesses earlier miracles or just knew that Jesus could do something to help... directs the servers to do whatever Jesus says.

Vs. 6 – 10 – it is incredibly embarrassing to run out of something at a wedding... it happens all the time... but Jesus’ sign was not just to make sure everyone was drinking.

Vs. 11 – revealed Jesus’ glory – what was revealed? That Jesus could pull off a magic trick? No... here are a couple glory revelations.

The first is that Jesus can be bothered – even asked to enter history and make a difference. Even if something doesn’t seem like it would be on Jesus’ list of things to do – our call is to believe and ask.

The second is that Jesus extends hospitality where hospitality seems to have run out. Jesus extends abundance for all, even when you think there is not enough... there is enough.

So, the word comes to us today. What are you struggling with that you would never think Jesus would care about? We all have those parts of our lives where we are hurting but we aren’t sure if Jesus cares or would do anything about. Our call is to be like Jesus’ mother... have faith and ask and then do.

But we are also followers of Jesus... those who are Jesus’ hands and feet and hearts in this world. And the question is for us... can we be bothered? Are our lists so tight, so controlled that when an opportunity comes for us to reach out, to make a difference that we don’t. Is our list full of things to do just for ourselves, or for people who look like us or talk like us. Are our lists open... is there room on our list to extend hospitality, to extend abundance to others.

So, no... this isn’t a story about a magic trick – turning water into wine... but is a story of a miracle, a miracle of abundance, in Jesus...there is enough for all. Which leads us back to our lists.

Here at Prince of Peace, we are not creating a wedding invitation list but we are inviting you to make a list of at least one person that you are praying about inviting to come to church. Each week we have a handout, an invitation for you to give to a friend, a neighbor, a family member, someone that you can invite to church the weekend of September 7/8. Because Jesus is not only available to you but is available to them as well. Especially when they may think they are bothering Jesus. And following the example of Jesus, let’s extend an invitation. Like Jesus, let’s extend hospitality where it may seem like hospitality has run out. Maybe no one has invited them to church either ever or in a long time. Maybe that was all you needed and maybe that is all they will need. An invitation. And here is the good news. You are on the list... and so are they.