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**Series**: The Gospel of John: For God So Loved…

**Date**: September 18th, 2022

**Speaker**: Josh Jones, Community Life Pastor

**Text**: John 2

**Title**: The Restoring Power of Jesus

MPS: Jesus the Son of God has come to restore us back to a right relationship with God.

Good morning, Mercy!

It is so good to be here worshiping with you all this morning. Providence Road, I hope you guys are doing well this morning. This week, my wife and I were talking about what a joy it is to come to church and enter into a room filled with stories. Your stories, my story. There are so many stories in this room that testify to the power of God to fix the things that are broken. To restore our relationship with him that was broken by sin. In this room are marriages that were on the brink of divorce that have been restored. Friendships that were broken and now restored. There are parents who have watched their kids run towards sin and have been restored. There are stories of addictions broken and being broken. Our God is about restoring things that are broken and making them whole again.

Maybe you're in here today and you’re wondering if restoration is possible for you, and you're feeling a little hopeless. My prayer this morning as we spend time in John chapter 2 is that you will walk away with hope **knowing that God has come to restore the things that are broken**. **He has come to restore people whose lives have been broken by sin. He has come to restore them back to a right relationship with Him and back to a right relationship with one another.** I believe this is the big idea that God has for us this morning in the two stories we are going to look at. So, as we walk through Chapter two, I want us to see that Jesus has the power to transform, I want us to see the heart of Jesus to restore us to a right relationship with him, and lastly, I want us to see that Jesus’ authority and power to do these things is evidenced through his death and resurrection.

(PRAY)

John Ch. 2

I. **the Power of Jesus to transform.**

Have the passage on screen for reference.

On the third day a wedding took place in **Cana of Galilee.** Jesus’s mother was there,

2 and Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well. 3 When the wine ran out, Jesus’s mother told him, “They don’t have any wine.”

1. “What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?” Jesus asked. “My hour has not yet come.”
2. “Do whatever he tells you,” His mother told the servants.
3. Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons.
4. “Fill the jars with water,” Jesus told them. So, they filled them to the brim.8 Then he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the headwaiter.” And they did.

9 When the headwaiter tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from — though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom 10 and told him, “Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people are drunk, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now.”

1. Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.
2. After this, he went down to Capernaum, together with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples, and they stayed there only a few days.

-- John 2:1-51 (CSB)

First, let's look at the **Power of Jesus to Transform.** As we just read, at the beginning of John chapter two, we find ourselves at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and Jesus’ mother is there. Now, this wedding was not like any wedding you’ve probably ever been to, at least not if you’ve grown up here in the states. It is however a wedding that any extrovert would have loved to be at; lots of people, lots of food and plenty of wine. And these weddings didn’t just last a couple hours but they lasted for at least 7 days and sometimes more. Could you imagine taking an entire week to celebrate? These weddings were a big deal, and it was a big deal for the hosts of the wedding to be able to provide for everyone in attendance for the entirety of the wedding. To not provide would have been a social embarrassment. Well, if you remember from the story there comes a point when the wine begins to run out, and. Mary, Jesus' mom, somehow catches wind of this and asks Jesus to do something about it.

And listen to Jesus' response. He says.

“What does that have to do with you and me, **woman?** My hour has not yet come” At first read it leaves you scratching your head. First of all, it’s a confusing saying, secondly, he called his mom “Woman”. I mean If my mom ever asked me to do something, and I responded to her and said “Woman”?!! Well let’s just say if I had, there is a good chance that I wouldn’t be standing here this morning. I would have ceased to exist. Could you imagine ever addressing your mom that way… You would think the miracle John is talking about is the fact that Jesus could say this and still be alive! It wasn’t the Pharisees that plotted to kill Jesus, it had to be his mom! Well, this is where we have to consider culture and context when reading the scriptures. Jesus wasn’t being disrespectful to his mom when he referred to her as “Woman”. Mary didn’t receive it this way, John’s original readers didn’t read it this way. It was actually a respectful way for him to speak to his mother.

Calling his mom “Woman” also communicates something about his relationship with his mom. Let’s look again at what he says.

Jesus said… What does that have to do with you and me, - This was a

Greek expression, it’s hard for us to translate it exactly into English. It was a phrase used to distinguish between realms or relations. Demons spoke these words when they were confronted by Jesus.

Now, I’m not suggesting that Jesus was referring to his mom as a demon but think about this for a second. Jesus is essentially making a distinction between himself as the son of God and the rest of humanity. He’s letting us know that he has come from another realm (Heaven), and that his identity comes not from his earthly family, not from his mom and dad, but from his heavenly Father. His allegiance is first to his Heavenly Father. As a result, his concern is not first with temporal/earthly things but with kingdom things.

And then he says My hour has not yet come. Everything Jesus did while on earth was done with the Kingdom of God in mind. Everything he did was moving towards a moment, this “Hour”. ***The hour he’s talking about is his death on the cross.*** There are other places where John records Jesus using this type of language each of them point toward his coming death and resurrection

**In John Ch. 7 vs. 30** John writes - “Then they tried to seize him. Yet no one laid a hand on him because his hour had not yet come.”

**Again, in John 8:20** - John writes about another situation where they tried to seize him, but his hour had not yet come.

**In John 12 -** Jesus is telling some of his disciples about his coming death and he says, “The Hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” and again in chapter 12:27 Jesus says that this “hour”, the hour of is death on the cross, is the reason he came.

Again, everything was building to this “hour” when Jesus would bring glory to the Father through the death he would die.

If everything Jesus did, had the Kingdom of God in mind, why did he turn the water into wine? If his concern wasn’t for the party, what could be his Kingdom purpose in giving us this sign.

Look at verse 6: John tells us there are **6 stone water Jars** - Jews used these Jars for ritual cleansing. And since the Jews were always having to purify themselves for various reasons these pots needed to be large. They each held about 20-30 gallons of water and there were six of them, that means all 6 when filled to the brim held somewhere between 120 and 180 gallons of water.

Jesus tells the servants to fill these six Large Stone Jars to the brim with water. Then he asks them to draw some out and take it to the head waiter. The head waiter was the one responsible for keeping the party moving. He tastes it and his mind is blown. Normally people serve the good wine first, then after everyone is good and happy, they sneak in the cheap stuff. But they had saved the best for last.

Think about this for a moment… Jesus took these Jars, designated for Old Testament ritual cleansing, and he used them to illustrate the law’s inability to actually cleanse people. They needed that much water because they were continually cleansing themselves.

I believe Jesus takes this moment to teach his disciples and anyone else paying attention that something new is coming. Something new that is better than the old. You may have heard it said before that the Old Testament Law is like a schoolteacher pointing us to Grace. Jesus here takes something that resembles Old Testament Law and replaces it with something New. And this something new is like a loud whisper telling us something of who Jesus is.

**It tells us of his power to Create**. In John 1 we learned that all things were created through him, and all things were made for him. Jesus is showing his disciples and anyone watching that he is God, and he has the power to create.

He’s showing us that **He is the source of Joys and life** - wine often symbolized joy and blessing from God

**He’s showing us that he has the power to Transform**. And not just the water to wine, but as we keep reading throughout John and the rest of scripture, we find that Jesus has the power to transform our lives. The wine was a symbol of the new life that was to come from Jesus. It was symbolic of a new covenant that God was making with his people, a covenant established by God and fulfilled by God so that we could be forgiven and restored back to a right relationship with Him. Because of this new covenant we can come to God through faith and be made new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the **old has passed** away, and see, **the new has come!** -- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (CSB)

**He came to fulfill what the law was never able to do,** he came to give life. The law given to Moses in the Old Testament was never meant to save, its purpose was to show our need for a savior, it was meant to serve as a tool to point us to Jesus who is the only one who can save.

Paul helps understand the role of the law played in pointing us to the New

Covenant in his letter to the Galatian church **Galatians 3:19-22**

Paul writes… Why, then, was the law given? It was added for the sake of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise was made would come.

In other words, the law was added to show people their sin and their need

for the promised savior.

The law was put into effect through angels by means of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator is not just for one person alone, but God is one. 21 Is the law therefore contrary to God’s promises? Absolutely not! **For if the law had been granted with the ability to give life, then righteousness would certainly be on the basis of the law.**

Ok, so if the law was meant to save, then we would be able to earn our salvation through obedience to the law. But we know from the testimony of our own lives and from looking at the world around us, and from scripture, that no one is able to uphold the righteous standard of the law on their own. The point of the Law was to show us our inability so that we might turn to the one who is able to meet the righteous requirements of the law and to rescue us from the consequences of our sin. 22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin’s power…

Basically, Paul is saying, every person is born into the world imprisoned by sin, **but the promise of salvation is given on the basis of faith in Jesus**. so that the promise might be given on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ to those who believe. -- Galatians 3:19-22 (CSB)

This is the new covenant, that righteousness is not accomplished through the works of the law, but through repentance and faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus, sent to take away the sins of the world. *Jesus is preparing his disciples' hearts for this reality and this first sign was intended to do that.*

**II. The Heart of Jesus (John 2:13-17). -**

Now in verse 13-17 we are going to have a scene change and we’re going to get a glimpse of the heart of Jesus to restore us back to a right relationship with God. We are going to see his heart for the glory of God and his heart for all people.

After the wedding, Jesus and his disciples headed down to Capernaum, and then to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. In verse 13 John writes…

**The Jewish Passover** was near, and so Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and he also found the money changers sitting there. 15 **After making a whip out of cords, he drove everyone out of the temple with their sheep and oxen. He also poured out the money changers’ coins and overturned the tables.** 16 He told those who were selling doves, “Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”

17 And his disciples remembered that it is written: **Zeal for your house will consume me.** -- John 2:13-17 (CSB)

The Passover was an annual celebration remembering God’s faithfulness to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Egyptians. This was the biggest celebration of their year. Passover for the Jews is like Easter for us, or even communion. It was an intentional time set aside to remember God’s deliverance.

And Jesus comes in and totally disrupts the whole thing. The Religious leaders had turned the outer court also known as the court of the Gentile into something like a flea market. Foreigners would come in to exchange currency because you could only offer a certain type of money. They were selling animals to be sacrificed and basically turning what was supposed to be a house of worship for all nations into a chaotic marketplace.

Throughout all of scripture God has made it very clear that his desire was for people from all nations and backgrounds to come to him in worship. And here we see the religious leaders using God’s temple as an opportunity to exploit and abuse for financial gain.

So out of **zeal for God's house** John writes, Jesus makes a whip, and drives out all the animals and flips the tables of the money changers.

As the disciples were watching Jesus cleanse the temple, they remembered another king, David, who in Psalm 69 was insulted and persecuted because of his **zeal or passion** for God. God brings this psalm to their mind as they are watching Jesus cleanse the temple.

Jesus was zealous/passionate for the glory of God and the heart of God’s People. God has always been most concerned for the heart of his people. Actions always flow from the heart. Out of the heart… The mouth speaks.

God was less concerned with the type of sacrifices people were offering and more concerned with the condition of their hearts.

The Old Testament prophet Micah asks this question in Micah 6:8. What is it that God requires from his children? Does he desire expensive gifts? Perfect animals of the highest quality? No, he says…

Micah 6:6-8

What should I bring before the Lord when I come to bow before God on high? Should I come before him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves?

1. Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousand streams of oil?

Should I give my firstborn for my transgression,

the offspring of my body for my own sin? -- Micah 6:6-7 (CSB)

1. Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you:

to act justly, to love faithfulness,

and to walk humbly with your God. -- Micah 6:6-8 (CSB)

It’s basically another way of communicating the great commandment to Love God and Love others. When we are loving God most, we will love people best. When we are walking humbly with God, we will do what is Just and love faithfulness.

**When we lose zeal/passion for God**, the only thing we have left is to become zealous for ourselves, and that's when we make decisions like these Jewish leaders had. That’s when we end up trying to use the name of God to oppress others and elevate ourselves. And rather than build the kingdom we hurt it.

III. **The Sign of Jesus (John 2:18-25)**

So, the Jews replied to him, “What sign will you show us for doing these things?”

They wanted to know what authority he had to come into the temple and clean house. Makes sense. They don’t know this guy, their hearts were hardened to the point where they didn’t seem to be under conviction, and they were frustrated that someone they didn’t know felt they could come in and challenge their authority.

19 Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.” 20 Therefore the Jews said, “This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days?”

They didn’t get it. The Jewish leaders didn’t get what Jesus was saying. They were thinking about the physical temple they were standing in. The temple they were standing in took ½ a century to build. Herod had made this Temple look spectacular too. To destroy it and rebuild in 3 days was a ridiculous idea.

Even more incomprehensible is that Jesus wasn’t talking about the physical building, he was talking about his body. So, what was the sign of his authority to cleanse the temple? It was his death and resurrection.

**Romans 1:3** Paul says that Jesus was declared the son of God with power by the resurrection from the Dead. The ultimate proof that Jesus wasn’t just a gimmicky magician was his resurrection from the dead. This is where John is taking us.

In Chapter one, John tells us that this Jesus he is talking about is The Messiah they had been waiting for, He calls him the Lamb of God who was sent to take away the sins of the world.

Then in Ch. 2

We have a wedding… Jesus gives us a sign that something New is coming… A new Covenant… A new way for God to interact with his people and for them to interact with him. And this covenant would be brought about and established By God himself.

Then we have the Passover, the cleansing of the Temple - This new covenant that Jesus is bringing is going to restore our worship, it’s going to bring us back into a right relationship with Him based not on our works but based on Jesus and his righteousness. And the sign that Jesus would give to prove his deity and authority to do this would be his coming death and resurrection. This was the “Hour” Jesus life was building towards.

This was a hard thing for even his disciples to grasp in the moment. In verse 22, John notes that the disciples remembered Jesus saying this at his resurrection.

I think there are a lot of things that God makes known to us in the moment but doesn’t reveal their significance to us until later. But what I have learned from reading through the scriptures and have even observed in my own life is that God can be trusted with the things we don’t seem to understand. The things that are too difficult for us to grasp. Neither the Jewish leaders nor his disciples really grasped what Jesus was communicating here. But they knew it was different, and in time, God revealed it.

Mercy, I don’t know where you are in your relationship with Jesus right now. I don’t know if there are things that may be causing you to question or doubt what God is doing, but I do know and trust in my heart of hearts that He is able to be trusted. You can trust him. Nothing he does is without purpose. If you are here this morning and you have yet to trust God with your life, he invites you to come and see that He is good. Talk with the person you came with, or someone next to you. Come find someone on staff, we would love to talk with you and pray with you. Because we believe what John believes, that Jesus is the Messiah who has come to take away the sins of the World.

Close in prayer.

21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 So when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the statement Jesus had made.

23 While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. 24 Jesus, however, would not entrust himself to them, since he knew them all 25 and because he did not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man. -- John 2:18-25 (CSB)