

Grace Bible Church
Pastor Teacher
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Tree of Life
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JOH 2:1-6, And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding. And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.

In this verse, the Lord is using the six stone waterpots, which are also translated as vessels according to the Greek Scholar Joseph Thayer. This passage and the ones in John 4 means that the six disciples were believers because who were disciples of John the Baptist whose ministry was to prepare the Jews for the coming of the Messiah.

Remember our Lord’s statement concerning the ministry of John the Baptist in **MAT 11:11, “Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen {anyone} greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the**

kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

As we are told in MAR 1:3-4, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.' John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

The Lord also said in LUK 7:27-32, “This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' I say to you, among those born of women, there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

And when all the people and the tax-gatherers heard {this,} they acknowledged God's justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.

“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another; and they say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance (a Happy song); we sang a dirge (song of sorrows, especially at funeral), and you did not weep.'”

In other words, the implacability of the Jews was impossible to please or minister to no matter what type of music and message was given.

LUK 7:33-34, “For John the Baptist has come eating no bread (he was known for eating grasshoppers) and drinking no wine (just water); and you say, 'He has a demon!' they said “The Son of Man has come eating (fine food) and drinking (fine wine); and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!'”

They said the Lord was glutton.

They also said HE was friends with crooks who stole money.

They said that HE always has prostitutes hanging around HIM.

They said so many evil things about Him because of their jealousy and their implacability. I like our Lord’s answer.

LUK 7:35, “Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

God’s truth eventually is revealed in His time. The word vindicated is the Greek verb *dikaioo* which means to be justified, vindicated, revealed spiritually, shown by its fruit of her children. Never forget the things that were said about our Lord by the religious leaders, HIS enemies, HIS family, including HIS own mother and even HIS friends.

LUK 16:15, And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.”

They said in MAT 9:34 that our Lord was of the devil, “He

casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”

MAT 11:19, people said that our Lord was a glutton, a drunk and hung out with prostitutes, **“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!'”**

MAT 26:65-66, they said that HE blasphemed and had cursed God and the Jews and the nation of Israel, **“Then the high priest tore his robes, saying, “He has blasphemed!”** that HE deserved to be dead, **“They answered and said, He is deserving of death!”**

In MAR 3:21-22, our Lord was accused of being nuts and insane, **“And when His own people heard {of this,} they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.”** they said He was demon possessed, **“And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul”**

In MAR 3:30, they said our Lord has an unclean spirit, **“He has an unclean spirit.”**

In LUK 15:2, He had a reputation for hanging around with prostitutes and sinners, **“This man receives sinners and eats with them.”**

In LUK 23:2, they accused of being unpatriotic, And they began to accuse Him, saying, **“We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to**

Caesar,”

In LUK 23:5, they accused of always stirring up trouble, **But they kept on insisting, saying, “He stirs up the people,**

In LUK 23:14, they said that HE causes people to rebel, **“This man is one who incites the people to rebellion,**

In JOH 7:12, they said He was a cult leader and **“He leads the multitude astray.”**

In JOH 8:48, the Jews said, **“Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”**

In JOH 10:20, And many of them were saying, **“He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?”**

The point is HE was used to being judged and criticized and lied about. And so, the six waterpots represented some new followers who had been following John the Baptist along with a few new men who decided to follow our Lord.

So, we need to introduce our Lord’s first miracle with the mystery of the six stone ceremonial waterpots. And we begin with the reasons that our Lord used six stone waterpots which were also called vessels.

JOH 2:6, Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.

These jars could not be ceremonially clean unless they were

made out of stone and cleansed by clean water. These were used to purify the Jews in certain ceremonies with water.

Now, you will notice that there are six waterpots or vessels and our Lord is going to use them as a point of typology representing believers who have an empty vessel that our Lord can fill with the water of the word turned into the finest wine represented by the power of the Spirit.

ISA 55:1, Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.

In fact, in **JOH 3:4-6**, Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

Also, in **REV 22:16-17**, “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.”

No longer were the Jews to be cleansed by the water in the pots, but now they could be cleansed by believing upon the Messiah and the life that the Lord gives. So, He tells the

servants to draw water and fill the jars or put clean water in the waterpots or the empty vessels for the Jewish custom of purification.

Then our Lord told them to put water in the waterpots first and then draw it out so that they would know that there was nothing in the pots except the water that they were beginning to use beforehand. This action removed all doubt that this was miraculous.

He told them to put water in the pots first and then draw it out so that they would know that there was nothing in the pots beforehand. Now, in spite of the fact that God begins the work and completes it, we do have a part in the work that HE began. And that is why some believers will be winners and some will be losers. Some will receive rewards; the majority will lose their rewards.

And so, we will continue our study on the purpose of the waterpots or the vessels with the passage I have chosen that was written by the apostle Paul.

2TI 2:15, Be diligent [spoudazo – study] to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

The apostle Paul said to concentrate on doing your best for God and work for HIM and with HIM and you won't be ashamed of stating the truth plain and simple.

2TI 2:16, But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will

lead to further ungodliness,

Stay clear of legalistic talk that is only talk. Words are not powerful if they are not backed up by a godly spiritual life. Then Paul names the ones that are spreading lies, gossip, slander by their lying words.

2TI 2:17, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

These two individuals have been haunting the apostle Paul throughout his ministry.

Look back at 1TI 1:18-20, This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered over to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

Back to 2TI 2:18-24, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and thus they upset the faith of some. Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.” Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if a man

cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,