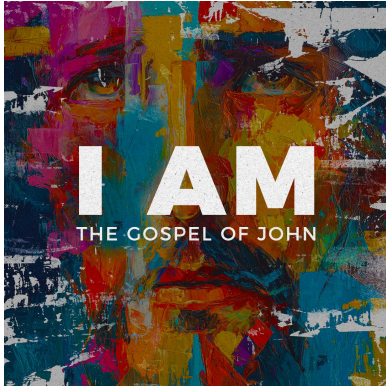


Title: The Wine of a New and Great Joy

Series: I Am

Speaker: Kevin Sneed

Date: May 24, 2026



Introduction

At a wedding in Cana, Jesus performs his first public sign — turning water into wine. But this isn't just about rescuing a party. It's a prophetic announcement: the Kingdom of God has arrived, the old purification system is being replaced, and the wedding feast of the Lamb has begun.

Key Texts: John 2:1-12; Exodus 24:8; Isaiah 25:6; Joel 2:19, 24; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Icebreaker

Jesus chose a wedding party — not a temple, not a healing, not a sermon — for his first public act. What does that choice reveal about what he came to do?

Discussion Questions

1. **Read John 2:1-2 together.** John opens Jesus' public ministry at a wedding feast rather than in a religious setting. What might that tell us about the kind of kingdom Jesus is inaugurating?
2. **Read John 2:3-5 together.** When Mary tells Jesus the wine has run out, he responds, "My hour has not yet come" — a reference to his death on the cross. How does a mundane problem at a party connect to Jesus' crucifixion? What's the thread between them?
3. **Read John 2:6-10 together.** Jesus makes somewhere between 600 and 900 bottles of wine — far more than needed. What does that kind of abundance reveal about God's heart toward us?
4. Kevin explained that the stone jars were used for ceremonial washing — they represented the entire Jewish purification system. Jesus fills them with wine instead of refilling them with cleaner water. What's the difference between reforming a broken religious system and replacing it entirely with himself?

5. The bridegroom at Cana was facing public disgrace. Jesus absorbed that shame and turned it into honor — the master of the banquet even praised him for saving the best wine for last. Where do you see Jesus doing that same work in your own story or in the world around you?

6. Mary's final words in Scripture are "Do whatever he tells you." Kevin called this the only path to joy. How does obedience to Jesus lead to joy rather than just duty or obligation? What does that reveal about the kind of life he's offering?

Key Takeaways

- Jesus' first sign announces the arrival of the Kingdom of God in His person — the messianic age has begun
 - The ceremonial washing jars represent the old covenant purification system; Jesus replaces it entirely with himself
 - Jesus takes our shame and turns it into honor; He loves us, and He loves our joy
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Silence and Solitude

This week, sit quietly with Mary's words: "Do whatever he tells you."

Ask Jesus: What water are you asking me to bring? What am I holding back that I need to place in Your hands?

Maybe it's shame you've been carrying. Maybe it's obedience you've been avoiding. Maybe it's grief you've been trying to manage on your own.

Bring it to Him. Let Him fill the jars.

Close by reading John 2:11 slowly:

"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him."

He who loves you, loves your gladness, too.