

## **“Pour It Out”**

His Place WM

6/2/24

***(Welcome everyone...introduce myself...give a little update on life and ministry)***

I want to talk to you today about something and perhaps it's a reminder for us all...***what a life of faith looks like.***

***What does it look like when you and I do our part of Trusting and Obeying in the natural...and see God do the supernatural.***

The problem is though that we usually have a big obstacle in the way that makes that responsibility and commitment to do our part so difficult: **It's US!**

Sometimes we get so caught up with Us...that we forget about Him...we get so bogged down by What's in front of us and what's happening in our life or not happening...what goal or objective we have for our life...or what achievement we want next, that we just get bogged down in stuff...***I mean it's good stuff but its not great stuff...I like to say it this way:***

***We get so bogged down with What's in front of us that we fail to see Who is above us!***

We get worried about what this person thinks or what this group thinks about us...or we worry about what people are saying...maybe even family members and for sure friends or coworkers...and ***the work of God in our life gets choked out.***

### **Old Adage**

**20's- you are worried about what others think of you**

**40's- you don't care what others think about you**

**60's- you realize there wasn't anyone thinking about you anyway**

I'm at a place in life where I really don't care what others think about me...I mean there might be a small level of care...to the degree that I put on deodorant today and some cologne...I showered...but I think that is even more because I don't want to smell myself.

But I'm 48...I'll be 49 in November...and I can truly say that I am no longer worried about what others think of me.

***I know what I'm good at...I know what my giftings and natural talents are...those things that I can roll out of bed in the morning without any practice and I can just slay...I know what I excel at and what brings me joy and fulfillment.***

***I also know what I am not good at...I know those things that are just a struggle for***

**me...those things that even if I work on them tirelessly, at best I would be average in those areas.** Some things that I'm not good at (talk about these for a bit):

**-Running**

**-Details**

**-Lazy when it comes to cooking things I'm not used to cooking**

Let me expand on this cooking thing...I can cook...don't get it twisted...Mama didn't raise no fool...and I ain't no fool in the kitchen. If it's fattening and bad for you, and tastes good...I can cook it!

***The problem is...that if it's a meal that is not in my wheelhouse of meals that I know how to cook...I just don't want to...most of the time it just feels like too much work. Cleaning the food...Prepping the food...the mess...the clean up...I'm stressed just thinking about it.***

In fact, when Jenn is gone and it's just me and Amanda (our daughter), our food conversations look like this: ***What are you in the mood for...chinese...want to go out? What are you in the mood for...Italian...want to go out? What are you in the mood for...cereal...want to go out? =)***

Here's the weird thing about it all though: ***It is a lot easier than I make it out to be most of the time. I mean, even if I don't know how to make it...***it's as simple as two things:

**Ingredients**  
**Instructions**

Now if it's a meal I'm already familiar with...a good ol' Southern meal or some soul food or comfort food...I'm on it...gotcha...I don't even need any instructions, just the ingredients and we are on like Donkey Kong.

But if it's a new thing...something that I don't have experience with...something foreign to me...then the process just seems overwhelming to me.

And what I've realized is this: ***If it's something new that I'm cooking up...That even though I have the skill to cook and even have the Ingredients and the Instructions...I still need an Instructor...because there are nuances to cooking that only someone who has done it before can teach me.***

I don't just need to know what to mix...but when to mix it.

I don't just need to know how long to cook it...but when to flip it.

I don't just need to know what to add...but at what point in the prep that I add it

And that's what I love about Jesus...***He became that Instructor!***

We needed someone to show us how! ***We had the instructions...we even had the ingredients...but we needed someone to show the way.***

I don't know about you but...

- I need someone to show me how to forgive someone that did me dirty
- I need someone to show me how to live a Godly life and made wise choices
- I need someone to show me what it looks like to put others first
- I need someone to show me what it looks like to power through persecution and stay faithful to my call

Jesus literally came down to this earth and became the Instructor and showed us how to put the Ingredients and Instructions together and live out the life that we have been called to live out.

***\*But here's the problem: Many of us stop our thoughts, ideas and actions around the truth that Jesus came...He lived...and He died...and He rose again.***

***But that is not the totality of the Gospel! This is the totality of the Gospel:***

- He came from Heaven to earth, born of a virgin, and lived a perfect life
- He died on a cross for my sin and your sin and paid the penalty we owed
- He rose again on the 3rd day and defeated death, hell and the grave
- He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father praying for us
- He has sent the Holy Spirit to be our power and guide by the side
- He is coming again real soon to receive His Bride (The Church)
- When He comes to rule and reign, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord, and everyone will spend an eternity either with Him in that New Heaven and New Earth or away from Him in a real place called Hell
- He will make all things new and He will rule over a Kingdom that has no end
- We will reign with Him forever and ever and ever

This one for sure really gets lost in the shuffle: ***He has sent the Holy Spirit to be our power and guide by the side***

**A lot of people are trying to live out the Instructions without the Ingredients! You are trying to live out the holy life without the power!**

You open up the Instructions and it says ***Bless those who persecute you...***and your life Nah...I ain't doing that...let me go show them what some persecution looks like!

You open up the Instructions and it says ***Come out from among them and be holy...in other words come out from identifying and living in the lifestyle that you used to live...***and your like "Nah...I kind of like portions of that life...and I don't know if I want to give up those things."

**See, we want to do what's in the Instructions...but we just don't have the power to...we don't have the right ingredients yet...and here's the key:**

**You don't have the right ingredients yet, because you haven't engaged into the full relationship yet! A relationship with Christ and His powerful Holy Spirit that He sent for me and you so that we could have power to live out the life He's called us to.**

**Trying to fulfill the Recipe without the Relationship is called Religion** (Explain)

**We try to fulfill the Recipe of the Law without the right relationship with the Christ and fully accepting His work on the cross for us and so...we get frustrated and wonder why this new Faith Walk isn't working out well for us.**

**To help us see the incredible life that God has for us and experience the fullness of His power and grace in our life...I would like you to turn to John 2.**

**As we come to our text today...we find Jesus and His disciples at a wedding and the wine has run dry...**

**\*Cool Fun Fact:** Rarest bottle of wine ever sold purchased by Christopher Forbes for \$160,000. It was an unmarked green glass bottle w/the inscription of 1787 Lafitte Th. J. (thought to be owned by Thomas Jefferson), found behind a wall in Paris.

**Yet, the world's finest wine was not made in the vineyard's of France, nor was it served in the finest international restaurants. As we will see today, it was made and served at an unpretentious wedding in Cana of Galilee, 2000 years ago. And *that wine is valued to this day, not for its rarity, but for what it reveals about its Maker...Jesus Christ!***

**One of the unique things about this first miracle in Jesus' ministry is this:**

***It wasn't done at church...He didn't do it at the synagogue after they all sang How Great Thou Art...He didn't perform it down at the altar after one of our favorite worship songs that really gets us going...***

**He did it at a party...not just any party...but a 7-day long wedding party!**

***I don't know what your view of Jesus is...but He was full of Joy, full of Fun, approachable, Not a negative nancy...(Explain...sometimes the power of His Spirit in your life looks like: Joy in suffering/Peace in persecution/Getting your joy back)***

**Joy is not a byproduct of my circumstance...it is a Fruit of the Spirit...it is the outflow of a life lived in the presence of the Holy Spirit!**

***The cross is before Him...yet Jesus is still dancing and celebrating people...and while He's dancing and having a good time...The first Christological Conundrum***

**takes place...(Explain John's purpose in writing: Jesus was not 50/50 God and Man...He was 100% God and 100% Man...we call that the Hypostatic Union for all of you Theological Nerds)...and the Christological Conundrum was this:**

**He sees His Mama from across the room and she takes her finger and says "Come here Son." Here's what she says:**

**John 2:1-11 (ESV)**

**1** On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. **3** When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." **4** And Jesus said to her, "**Woman, what does this have to do with me?** My hour has not yet come."

First off, I know this is just some peculiarities with the original language being used and translating that to English...But...my mama and her family grew up in the South...and if I would've said "Woman!"...well, I wouldn't be here today talking to you. =)

**5** His mother said to the servants, "**Do whatever he tells you.**"

**I want you to just park that phrase in your brain for just a bit and we'll come back to it later.**

**6** Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to the servants, "**Fill the jars with water.**" And they filled them up to the brim. **8** And he said to them, "**Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.**" So they took it.

**Remember that little exchange as well...we'll come back to that too.**

**9** When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But **you have kept the good wine until now.**" **11** This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**The first miracle Jesus does is not raising the dead, healing the blind or walking on water...His first ever public miracle is turning the molecular structure of water into the first incredible glass of Cabernet Sauvignon!**

**The very first miracle in Jesus' public ministry was to save the reputation of a family...**see in those days if a family ran out of wine during a celebration or feast it was a tremendous social faux pas. (Explain)

Now you might think well that seems weird or even small potatoes in relation to all the

things Jesus could have done...but I want you to think about it a little differently...perhaps it gives us a sneak peak into the heart of Jesus...

**Yes there is some incredible spiritual imagery that is being used here: the wine...representative of the blood that would be shed...the marriage party...representative of the marriage feast of the Lamb with His bride the Church...or perhaps the imagery of the stone pots that were used for the ceremonial purification system...and that water running out but Jesus showing up and saying yeah those old purification laws had their place but were incomplete...The blood that I provide will never run out...you will always have enough with Me. Jesus is saying to us: My purification will last forever!**

**That'll preach!**

***But for a moment today, I want to direct your attention to something different...that perhaps our view of Jesus has hindered us at times from experiencing the fullness of His power and provision.***

***Maybe you view Jesus as a distant God who doesn't care about the details of your life and so why would He care about some of the small and insignificant things in your life...so why bother Him with it??***

### **1. Jesus Cares About The Details of Your Life**

***When you start to realize that Jesus does care about the details of your life and that He is actively working in every aspect of your life...then you start having a different set of expectations.***

You start realizing that He is sovereign and that He truly does work in every area of your life to bring about change in you and change in others through you...you start looking at life a lot differently.

***If He cared enough to do a miracle so that everyone could enjoy a wedding party and that the host family would be saved from social embarrassment...I guarantee that He cares about your job...I can guarantee that He cares about that relationship...that He cares about those hidden God dreams and goals that you have for your life.***

### **John 10:10 (ESV)**

**10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

**Believe it or not...Jesus desires you to be the head and not the tail...He desires that you are leader in this life...He desires that you succeed at the things He has planned for you...He desires that your life is a testimony and witness of the goodness of God...and that when people look at you they say "That person has been with Jesus"**

because the favor of God is on your life!

Mary understood that...she was His mama...she had spent 30 years with Jesus...here's something else that she understood:

## **2. Be Willing To Grab God's Attention, Speak Up For What You Want, and Believe Him for the Impossible**

*Because Mary knew her Son was interested in the details of people's life...she was willing to stop him from what He was doing and ask Him for something supernatural.*

I don't know if Jesus was doing the Yahweh Shoulder Shrug or whether He was eating or just having a good time with friends and family...but what I do know is that He wasn't just sitting against a wall like a killjoy...**Jesus knew how to party and have a good time!**

*And so Mary saw that there was a problem...and she thinks to herself "I know a guy!"*

**\*Key: God has always responded when His people have made an intentional concentrated effort to bring a need to Him that only He could solve!**

*And it took the Faith of an individual to stand up to the problem, have some righteous fire in their belly, and go to God with a request for something big.*

**3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."**

She knew where to go for a miracle...she was willing to forego conversations with others who "Might" be able to offer a solution...and she went to the One who was the Solution!

There was an intentional and direct movement to the Master when the problem of a lack of wine troubled the success of the party.

And I'm wondering today if there is anyone here that is experiencing lack in your life...if you will make a beeline to the Master, He will fill you to the brim.

You didn't need to ask Mary twice...she knew where her help came from...she probably quoted what the psalmist said:

### **Psalm 121:1-2 (ESV)**

**1** I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

**2** My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

**You really don't think God moves for those who are willing to grab His attention???**

(talk about the Centurion, the woman with the issue of blood...both of them “interrupted” what God was doing and got His attention)

As we land the plane today I want to do this...something that has really stood out to me with this story and what I believe might be ***the mindset shift you need today to start seeing God move in your life like you desire...***

**I believe there are people here today that need a miracle in their life!**

**The Path To A Miracle:**

### **1. You Have to Accurately Perceive the Problem**

***You have to first know that there is a problem...and what the real problem is...in order to ask for the right miracle to be appropriated to the situation.***

I don't know what all the other people were doing...but Mary was in tune with the problem.

Some of you may be saying “yeah yeah I got that part”...But do you?? Do you really? Many people think they know they issue but they really don't.

***Most people are asking God to fix the Fruit of the issue instead of letting Him get down to the Root of the issue!***

*(Give some examples: Money issues...maybe it's a contentment issue...maybe it's an obedience issue)*

### **2. You Have To Know Where The Power Is To Fix the Problem**

***Mary didn't go to the Cana Costco...she went straight to the One who had the power to make a change***

**Who do you go to first when problems arrive??**

\*A little education on wine...**Wine takes Time:**

-3 years till you see a single grape

-Another 5 years before you have grapes that you can make wine with

-8 years before you ever get wine

***But Mary knew who to go to...the One who could take an 8 year process and fix it in a moment!***

***She knew something that I'm challenging you to know today: There is One person...and His name is Jesus Christ of Nazareth...that has the power to do in a***

*moment what it takes others years to do!*

**\*Key: Only Jesus can do in a moment what it would take you to do in a decade...Only Jesus can redeem the time that the enemy has taken...Only Jesus can restore in a moment what the enemy has taken from you your whole life!**

**You have to Accurately Perceive the Problem, You have to go where the Power is...**

### **3. You Have To Be Persistent**

Notice the exchange between Mary and Jesus:

**4 And Jesus said to her, “*Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.*”**

It would seem as though that was not the answer she was expecting or even hoping for...but that didn't change her resolve...

***I didn't necessarily get the answer I wanted, but I still have faith that you can do it!***

And then she puts action to her faith...even though she doesn't see the answer YET...**She sets in motion the natural to line up with the Supernatural**

Look at what she does...

**5 His mother said to the servants, “*Do whatever he tells you.*”**

**Mary is saying: “I know God that you will not be silent and you will act...in Your own time and in Your own way...and when you do I'm going to be ready with my obedience”...**

**And look at what else she did...she enlisted partners in the miracle...**

### **4. You Have To Partner With God**

**Why is this so important? Because God has always worked through people to perform the powerful! He has always involved people in the process...And the first person God always partners with in your miracle...is YOU!**

**\*The power of Pentecost is this: **Pentecost is not about a Savior who does stuff for you, but a Savior who does stuff through you!****

***Mary knew that if He was going to do a miracle that day it was going to be through Divine Partnership!***

And here are the most powerful words Mary ever said...and someone that is here today needs to hear this because this is the key that is going to unlock God's miracle in your life:

***"Do whatever he tells you."***

And here is what Jesus tells the servants to do: ***Go fill those stone jars with water!*** (Talk about that unique request)

It's as if Jesus is telling them this: ***You go do what I've asked you to do no matter how absurd the request is...you do the natural...and let me do the supernatural.***

I believe that there are many in here today that Jesus is saying this to you: ***Stop waiting for the miracle to turn out the way you want it to turn out and just trust me and be obedient and do what I've asked you to do.***

***Some people want Jesus to fill their stone jars with wine but they don't want to do their part and fill them with water first...But***

***Breakthrough is always connected to Obedience***

And here was the ultimate test of obedience...look with me at the end of Jesus' instructions:

***7*** Jesus said to the servants, ***"Fill the jars with water."*** And they filled them up to the brim.***8*** And he said to them, ***"Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast."*** So they took it.

It's one thing to have the faith to go to Jesus...it's another level of faith to go and fill the jars with water...especially since it was an odd command...but it's another level of faith after that to draw some of that water out and then make the walk to the table of the master of the feast.

- Can you keep walking obedience when you don't yet see the fruit of that obedience?***
- Can you still hold on to that faith and obedience when the miracle is still in the process?***
- Can you keep trusting Him when you haven't seen the answer to your prayers?***
- Can you keep getting into the Word when you feel dry inside and have no spiritual drive because life has dragged you down?***

That is what Faith looks like

***Breakthrough is always connected to Obedience***

The Servant: ***"Mary told me to do whatever He tells me to do...so He told me to do it...so here we go!"***

We don't know exactly when the water turned into wine...but what I do know is that it says it wasn't until they tasted it that they realized it was wine...and that it was the best wine! Look at what it says...

**9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine**, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But **you have kept the good wine until now.**"

Because experiencing that miracle in your life is about Accurately Perceiving the Problem...It's about going to where the Power is that can Fix the Problem...it's about being Persistent...Its about Partnering with God...but here's the real test of faith:

### **5. You Have To Pour Out What Has Already Been Given To You**

*That is when the breakthrough happened...the Miracle happened when the servants poured out what they had in their hands...*

*Faith without Action is dead...Faith without Obedience is dead!*

*God says I'm looking for some believers who will walk in obedience to Me and who will pour out what they perceive to be nothing and believe me to do the impossible.*

*(Explain what it looks like to Pour It Out)*

*I'm going to keep Pouring out what is in my hand...and expect God to do the impossible.*

*I know it seems what I have is pointless and meaningless but I'm going to keep pouring it out in service to God and to others...and believe God for the impossible.*

*And most times in our lives...the Miracle Happens While We Are POURING IT OUT!*

**We will never receive anything from God's hand until we release what is in ours**

Close/Altar (Could it be that your miracle is hiding behind a simple act of obedience?)