

I Introductions and announcements, joys and concerns.

II Prayer.

III Review: We are reading the Gospel According to St. John. We have given some thought to the Prologue which uses hellenistic and Hebrew terms to introduce the Incarnation. We looked at the ministry of John the Baptist as it was carefully organized to show John, not as a rival, but as a friend and messenger for God to introduce the ministry of Jesus.

IV Overview: In C2 the active ministry of Jesus is introduced with the wedding in Cana and the disturbance in the Temple.

V Read John 2:1-11. Study Willhauck C 2 and Blackwell A Whole New World C5. Willhauck provides much information and give a brief assessment of interpretive and analytic concerns.

Sc i: Jewish weddings were festive occasions lasting several days. Guests include relatives, local dignitaries, sometimes the whole village. There was music and dance, food and wine. The mother of Jesus acts more like a relative, a co-hostess, than a mere friend.

Sc ii: Discussion between Mary and Jesus. Willhauck discusses on p 13. Prof. W.F. Howard, I.B. p 491, paraphrases the two statements of Jesus: "Madam, never mind; don't be worried". "I must wait for the righttime." v5. Note the serene confidence of the mother.

Sc iii: v6-10. Result: the tension of embarrassment, of failed hospitality, is wondrously relieved. Happiness and humor reigns.

v11: the evangelist's three-fold conclusion: 1. Jesus' first sign. See Willhauck, 14,15 for a discussion of signs in this Gospel.

2. Jesus' glory revealed.

3. The disciples believed.

Conclusion: What actually happened? See Willhauck, p17, last paragraph.

2. Both water and wine are rich Jewish and Christian symbols. See

Amos 5:24.

Amos 9:13-15.

Make a study sheet for water as a symbol in this Gospel. For example:

1:26,31.

2:6

3:5

3:23

You will continue this study in C 4.

Be prepared to discuss your answer to Willhauck's Q #4, p 12.

Research Q: Did Jesus get by without some stern Methodist-type criticism for participating in parties like this? Mt 11:18,19, Lk 7:15-18.

VI Jn 2:13-25. John provides a sudden shift from the happy wedding feast to a bold and dangerous confrontation. In the synoptics this event is considered the trigger which activated the opposition, Mk 11:15-18. In John this event is the basis for a cryptic message about the future Resurrection which would only be understood much later, v22.

Why did Jesus do this?

Imagine that you are the high priest. You are responsible for the sanctity of the Temple, the safety of the pilgrims here for Passover, and for maintaining order. You get a report that an itinerant teacher from out of town has created a huge disturbance in the courtyard. What would you do?

VII Next time: John C 3, Willhauck C 3. Jesus and Nicodemus.