



TRANSFORMATIONAL GRACE
JOHN 2:1-11

Transformational Grace

- Japanese Gold Leaf
 - A gold leaf is made by beating gold into an extremely thin sheet with a thickness of 0.1 to 0.125 millionths of a meter or 0.00003937 inches. It is so thin that it will disappear when you rub it with your fingers. It has been around for over 8,000 years.

Transformational Grace

- Japanese Gold Leaf



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- Japanese Gold Leaf
 - A Japanese translator asked an artist working in gold leaf how it felt to be surrounded by such expensive materials.
 - He replied, “I’ve been working with gold so long, I’ve forgotten it’s value.”

Transformational Grace

- Here in what we call the Bible is the most valuable thing we could ever hold or be around.
 - Gold pales in comparison to its worth
 - Power bows before it
 - Darkness hides from it
 - It is transformational, turning God haters into God lovers, selfish individuals into servants, fearful into heroes, slaves into children of God.

Transformational Grace

- Just like the Japanese artist, I wonder if we have become so familiar with the stories in Scripture, we have forgotten it's value and possibly its purpose.
 - Its purpose is not to just fill us with facts and history
 - Its purpose is not to just be read and understood, like parts of math formulas you may use someday
 - Its purpose is to transform your life into something beautiful, God pleasing - the image of Jesus Christ

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- **2nd Corinthians 3:18 NIV**, 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
 - **NLT** - makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.
 - **AMP** - are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory.

Transformational Grace

- **2nd Corinthians 3:18 NIV**, 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
- **MSG** - our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.

Transformational Grace

- Transformation - a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance.

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- It is the first miracle Jesus performed as He started His earthly ministry.

Scripture

- **John 2:1-11 NIV** On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."
 - 4 "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Scripture

- **John 2:1-11 NIV** 6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

Scripture

- **John 2:1-11 NIV** They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

Scripture

- **John 2:1-11 NIV** 11 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.

Transformational Grace

- Most times you wait for me to tell you what the scriptures say and how to apply them
- When you do this, you are only getting my perspective and not necessarily Christ's for you today
- I'm asking you today to start setting aside what you think you know about the text and look at it with fresh eyes and see what God reveals to you

Transformational Grace

- From here on out I want you to answer three questions as we talk through Scriptures
 - What kingdom values (as opposed to worldly attitudes and norms) does this text or miracle reveal?
 - With those truths in mind, how should our beliefs change?
 - How then should our actions change?

Transformational Grace

- To ask God to give you the “Spirit of wisdom and revelation” that “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened” – **Ephesians 1:17-18**

In the midst of celebration and distraction, Mary notices a need

- We have no idea what Mary's connection is to the bride and groom; all we know is that she is one wedding guest among many
- In the ancient world, wedding feasts lasted for days, and it was the host's sacred responsibility to provide abundant food and drink for the duration of the festivities
 - A Jewish wedding was a religious celebration

In the midst of celebration and distraction, Mary notices a need

- To run out of wine or food early was a dishonor and a disgrace — a breach of hospitality that the guests would remember for years bringing shame to the family with possibly great cost
- Historians tells us the host could be sued for this like a breach of contract today

In the midst of celebration and distraction, Mary notices a need

- I can easily imagine how the servants of the house must have gone limp with fear; this was the kind of miscalculation that could cost them their jobs — or worse
- This was a need Mary could not meet but that does not mean there was nothing she could do

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- She probably took Jesus' hand and led Him to an inner room for privacy
 - Even there she would have whispered, "They are running out of wine."
 - Hear the pressure, worry and desperation probably resonating in her voice like a pressure valve releasing

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- What did Mary expect Jesus to do?
- Mary's response seems to indicate this was now to be Jesus' problem
- Jesus' response is not rude, but He is distancing Himself from the relationship of mother/son

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- Not all Greek words or phrases are easily translated
- English phrase – “Heads up” or “Look out” really mean the opposite
- Woman is better translated “Ma’am” and was the word Jesus used on the cross to tell Mary that John would look after her

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- A better translation might be, “Ma’am, what does this have to do with me or why do you involve me now?”
- My time and how I am revealed is up to my Heavenly Father, not you
- Jesus makes His point gently and without being rude

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- Notice Mary doesn't try and convince Jesus or win Him over to her side
- She simply tells the servants, "Do whatever he tells you", turns and walks out

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- She leaves the results in Jesus' hands
 - If it is nothing, then she trusts Jesus with this response
 - If there is something to be done, then she simply trusts Jesus

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- When we approach Jesus with a need, we usually have a desired result picked out, bless me this way Jesus
- We never consider there is a greater blessing we have not thought of or can see, but Jesus has

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- We must learn to come to Jesus and simply lay our needs or the needs of others before Him and simply trust Him and His timing to do what is best
 - Even if it is “no” or “not now” or “wait” or the dreaded silence

Mary tells the right person and leaves the need in His hands

- No greater advice can be given to you, or you can give to others, “Whatever Jesus tells you to do, do it. Whatever door He opens for you, walk through it.”
- Trust Jesus to be at work
- Have faith/trust in His great love and plan for you, even when it looks complicated

Jesus transformed the humble DNA of water into complicated DNA of very good wine

- Jesus didn't try and fool any one with Kool-Aid colored water
 - I think at times we try and present Christianity as a substitute for what the world thinks it wants
 - We compete with the world using their standards
 - If you want excitement, good time, live any way you want

Jesus transformed the humble DNA of water into complicated DNA of very good wine

- Jesus did not offer them a substitute beverage
- He transformed simple water into the best wine possible
 - Water organic formula is H_2O
 - Wine organic formula average $C_8H_{16}O_2S$

Jesus transformed the humble DNA of water into complicated DNA of very good wine

- **Verse 6**, Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus transformed the humble DNA of water into complicated DNA of very good wine

- **Verse 7**, Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.
 - Where did they get the water?
 - How many trips did it take to the city well to accomplish this?
 - Were they tempted to not fill them to the brim?
 - Why did it matter if the jars were filled to the brim?

Jesus transformed the humble DNA of water into complicated DNA of very good wine

- **Verse 11**, 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.
 - The servants did not know what Jesus was going to do, but they simply obeyed Him as Mary said to do
 - I wonder what was going through the minds of His disciples?

Jesus transformed the humble DNA of water into complicated DNA of very good wine

- **Verse 8**, Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”
 - Take the cup to the one in charge of the banquet, who probably determined their fate
 - Were they fearful to present this as wine after all Jesus did not seem to do anything?

Jesus transformed the humble DNA of water into complicated DNA of very good wine

- **Verse 8**, Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”
 - Did the servants notice any change in the liquid as they walked?
 - They simply did what Jesus instructed, leaving the results to Him

Jesus transformed the humble DNA of water into complicated DNA of very good wine

- **Verse 8**, Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”
 - And it exceeded their expectation beyond belief
 - The DNA of simple water was transformed into the DNA of complicated wine which was better than what mankind could produce

Transformational Grace

- We are the stone jars in this miracle filled with simple human DNA
 - We think humanly, respond humanly, have humanly needs
 - God longs to transform your life in the here and now into something marvelously different, pure, and pleasing to God

Transformational Grace

- Are you presenting Jesus with partially filled jars to be transformed and you wonder why your spiritual life is not full?
- Are you hesitant to fully trust Jesus with His transformational grace?

Transformational Grace

- Questions from earlier
 - What kingdom values (as opposed to worldly attitudes and norms) does this text or miracle reveal?
 - With those truths in mind, how should my beliefs change?
 - How then should my actions change?



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