

Third Day People

John 2:1-11

God must love The Third Day! There are some 40 to 50 powerful scriptures, noteworthy scriptures, Third Day scriptures that talk about God at work:

Listen to ALL that happened on the Third Day(!):

- In Creation ... vegetation. Even broccoli & prunes were pronounced good!
- Joseph's dream interpretation is confirmed.
- God reveals himself Mt. Sinai
- Sacrifice limitations set in Leviticus
- Purification in Numbers
- God postures his leaders for victory in Joshua, Judges, and Samuel
- Hezekiah gets healed ... and 15 bonus years added to his life on the Third Day
- The Temple is completed on the Third Day
- Queen Esther intervenes and saves Mordecai on the Third Day
- God's people are RESTORED in Hosea on the Third Day
- And then in the New Testament (X3) ... Jesus!! On the Third Day ... The tomb is vacated ... left empty! I will rise again! I will live again! Sin and death and pain and Hell are overtaken in victory!!

God loves the Third Day and God loves **Third Day People!**

So many power-filled and awe-filled things happened on the Third Day! This morning's Third Day text is no different.

It was the Third Day and there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. The events of the day were sort of Party Normal ... and then Jesus shows up. When Jesus shows up, things begin to happen! I love it when Jesus shows up!

It started me thinking:

- What if we could tap into **Third Day Vision?**
- What if we could tap into **Third Day Faith?**
- What if we could tap into **Third Day Power?**
- What if we could tap into **Third Day Living?**
- What if we could actually **BE** a **Third Day People?**

I believe it looks like this:

Third Day People are a People of Celebration

[Spontaneous Story: *The Camp Out* ... sometimes we miss the obvious!]

This was a wedding ... this was a festival, a party, a celebration! And Jesus was there!! Jesus showed up. He joined in. He was fully present! Jesus participated! This is ... a time of joy ... a time of celebration ... and Jesus is on board!

What a lesson for us. It has been my experience that a large number of Brethren come from a long line of notoriously pathetic partiers. We don't know how to celebrate! Celebration does not come easily for us.

There is so much joy in Scripture:

- **Hebrews 12:2** "... for the joy that was set before him endured the cross ..."
- **Nehemiah 8:10** "... the joy of the Lord is my strength."
- **Romans 12:11** "... be aglow with the spirit ..."

If God in Christ has given us the official Okie Dokie in this life and the life to come, we ought to be the most joyful people on the face of the earth.

I learned so much about celebration from some of our non-Germanic Brethren of ethnicity.

- Bob DiSalvio's Ordination [short commentary]
- Arabic Weddings [short commentary]
- Nigerian Women's Fellowship [short commentary]
- Hispanic Worship - Nuevo Amanecer [short commentary]

Third Day People sing and move and dance and clap and cheer and “have a good time” in the Lord. They delight in the Lord: for faith, for forgiveness, for freedom, and for being with one another in a community of joy and peace and wholeness!

If we are going to be a vibrant church, a living church, a going church, a glowing church, a growing church, a Godly church ... remember: we are the Body of Christ NOT the Corpse of Christ(!) ... we need to learn to celebrate and ... celebrate with passion!

Secondly,

Third Day People are a People of Action

Listen to the scripture. [John 2:3-8]

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.”

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.”

How real is this?
I love this scripture.

- Mary: “The wine is gone.”
- Jesus: “Come on, Mom! You know it’s not time yet.”
- Mary: “Do whatever he tells you!”

Mary acts. Jesus acts. The servants act. God stirs it up, and the miraculous begins to happen! Water becomes wine. If we fast forward to today ... 20 cases of DASANI becomes 20 cases of CHARDONNAY!

And the party goes on because somebody acted.

Third Day People are People of Action!

- Vs. 5: “DO whatever he tells you.” Act on it!
What part of “DO” don’t you understand?

In my coaching practice I share a formula that always works:

A + I + A = Success

Awareness + Intention + ACTION = Success
[short commentary]

Third Day People are People in ACTION!

If we are going to be Third Day People, we must continue to be a faith-people of action.

- a cup of cold water
- a cup of warm soup
- the cup of salvation

Finally

Third Day People are a people who Reveal God's Glory

Vs. 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.

Revealed glory - real glory - most often begins with AMAZEMENT ... with SURPRISE ... and with a HOLY WOW!

Vs. 9 Master of the Banquet ... Wow! Are you kidding me! You did it differently ... a whole new way! Brethren talk about a new way of living. What in the world are you up to? You saved the best for last! Amazement ... Surprise ... Wow!

[Spontaneous Story: EYN (CoB in Nigeria) ... Literacy Program, Jobs Program, Rural Health Program ... "Will you pray with me the prayer that your people pray?" Took him by the hand - "Our Father ..."

TO REVEAL HIS GLORY ... WORD & DEED MUST BE CONNECTED

- It turns illiteracy into education
- It turns un-employ-ability into vocation
- It turns medication to meditation and mediation

Revealed Glory introduces people to Jesus all along the way! Brethren are at their best (X3) ... when Service and Evangelism are joined at the hip!

This is the revealed glory of God ... This is the revealed glory of Jesus ... at work in our work!

- We do what we do - to connect people to Jesus ... who connects people to God ... who connects people to salvation and life and meaning and purpose and maturity and health ... This is the fullness of God's biblical shalom.

- **We do what we do** - to connect people to the Savior.
- **We do what we do** - to put word and deed together that others might see Him and know Him and love Him and serve Him in a whole new way.
- **We do what we do** - to reveal HIS glory not our own. It is NOT primarily about being Brethren. It is about being a Third Day People of faith who are holding New Testament values and being immersed in Kingdom Business.

We are NOT a Social Service Agency ... We are NOT dispensing the Theology of Oprah (some sort of Jesus-less Spirituality) ... We are the Church ... We are the Body of Christ. We are a Third Day People of FAITH and HELP and HOPE and PURPOSE.

WE ARE THE CHURCH ... WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN.

LET'S BE THIRD DAY PEOPLE.

LET'S BE:

- **People of Celebration**
- **People of Action**
- **People Revealing God's Glory!**

Brothers and Sisters ...

What would God do; What could God do ... with

- a congregation like that;
- a district like that;
- a denomination like that;
- a movement of people like that?

So ... Why not us? Why not now?

And ... if we dare to be this kind of people, if we dare to be Third Day People, God is BIG enough ... God is BIG enough ... our God is BIG enough to take care of this movement we call ... the Church of the Brethren.