



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Sermon Based Small Group Plan
October 22, 2017
Sermon Title: "Time for the Best"
Preaching: Pastor Charles Svendsen
Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5 & John 2:1-11

Theme: We have two Epiphany lessons before us this week. Epiphany means "revelation, manifestation, dawning." We associate Epiphany with the season after Advent and Christmas, when the Gospel was brought to the nations. God in Isaiah's day and in the ministry of Jesus was doing a "new thing." The commonality of these two portions of Scripture is simply, yet profoundly, "the incredible generosity of God." In Isaiah, the exiles have now returned to Judea from captivity in Babylon. The writer can't wait to tell us that once forsaken Israel was now a "crown of beauty" and a "royal diadem" in the hand of God. So WPC as you enter a new chapter, God's "new thing" will become in God's hand beautiful...royalty!

In John 2, we will look at the story of Jesus' first miracle in turning water to wine. This spectacular miracle, given to us only in John's Gospel, inaugurates Jesus' three year ministry. Jesus brings the wine of himself, as another and more glorious "new thing" was and is unfolding.

Study Questions for the Sermon and Text: (choose as needed)

Isaiah 62:1-5

1. Do you know the meanings of your names? For what reason were you given your first and middle names?
2. What was one of the more exuberant weddings you have attended? What made it so much fun?
3. What is God's intent for his people (62: 1-2)? What is the relationship between God's plan for the nations and his restoration of his people (62:2; see 61:6, 9, 11)?
4. What does each new name indicate about God's new relationship with his people (62:4, 12; see 60:14, 18) Why is a new name so important for Zion?
5. What things does the picture of marriage communicate about God's relationship to his people (62:5; compare 61:10)?

John 2:1-11

1. What is the funniest thing you've witnessed at a wedding?
2. Since Jesus had not performed any miracles yet, why might Mary have approached him (v.3)? What do you learn about Jesus and his mother from verses 3-5?
3. What part does the function and size of the jars play in this story? How does the quantity and quality of the wine demonstrate Jesus' glory?
4. How does this sign relate to the "time" he refers to in verse 4 (see also 7:6, 8; 12:33; 17:1)?
5. Where is the "wine" level (zest for life) in your life right now: Full? Half full? Empty? How might Jesus renew that?

Prayer Options: (choose as needed for your group)

- Pray for Pastor Charles as he moves to his next interim opportunity.
- Pray for Pastor Dave and his family as they get ready to join us on November 27.
- Pray for Darv Howell and Gary Pate.
- Pray for the victims of earthquakes, hurricanes, fires and shootings.

Leader notes:

- Election of new Elders and Deacons and the dissolution of the PNC will take place at the Congregational meeting on October 22 – this Sunday!
- Moment for Stewardship on October 22, 29 and November 5. Our Stewardship Theme this year is “New Beginnings.” Commitment Sunday is November 12.
- Charles’ farewell luncheon is October 29 at 12:30pm.
- One service, November 19 at 10am. Thanksgiving baskets will be assembled and dedicated.
- November 27 – Pastor Dave is here!

