

# Jesus: Creating Beauty

*That You May Believe* sermon series week four

## Personal Connection (25 minutes)

### Icebreaker

What do you do well? Or, what have others mentioned that they think you do well? Can you identify how that ability developed?

### Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

What words describe how you feel when telling others about Christ or sharing his love with others in nonverbal ways? Which is easier for you to do?

Are you aware of any prayers that the Lord has answered this week? Are you still waiting for God's response on anything? How can your LIFE Group pray for you?

### Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

The Lord often responds to our questions and prayers with a loving but firm command for us to follow him. Despite all uncertainties, we can confidently follow Jesus because he is worthy of our trust as our Savior and Creator, who knew us comprehensively before we ever knew him. If we have trouble seeing the way we should go, we should let Jesus be our vision, our eyes. Pray that Jesus would be your eyes: eyes that would see *every* person worthy of his love; eyes that would love and follow the Father and trust him no matter the cost; and eyes focused on bringing people to the Cross!

## Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

### This Week's Key Concept:

**Jesus is uniquely able to transform the mundane and the ugly into glorious beauty!**

### Read John 2:1-25

Q1. Reread Jesus' reply to his mother's request for help in verse four. Do you think Mary understood Jesus' response after he turned the water into wine?

Q2. Jesus turns the water into wine in verses 6-10. Why do you suppose Jesus chose this as his first miracle? What is the significance of this miracle being the first of his ministry?

Q3. Reread verse 15. How do you react when unbelievers speak or act in ways that disrespect the Lord? How do you react when *believers* speak or act in ways that disrespect the Lord?

Q4. How is Jesus' miracle in Cana with the Jewish purification jars tied to the cleansing in the Temple? What was the Apostle John trying to show by tying these two events together?

Q5. The Gospel of John reports that the miracles of Jesus were "signs," with the intention that genuine belief in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, was a natural response. John also points out the incongruity of two things: 1) the failure of these signs to generate faith, and 2) the fact that on a number of occasions these signs generated false or superficial faith. How do both of these reactions miss the mark in regard to glorifying the Father?

## Impact Questions

Q1. It is common for people to separate their lives into two categories: work and play. How could balance be brought into your life by involving Jesus in your pleasures, not just your vocation? How could this impact not only your social wellbeing, but the mission field where you've been placed, as well?

Q2. Why do we often wait until everything runs out before requesting God's help? Why save the best for last, when the best can be first? How does turning to the Lord first impact your testimony?

Q3. In John, the words "work" and "miracles" are often used interchangeably. How could appreciating the gifts the Lord has given you impact your ability to serve him and others? What would happen if Christians recognized their calling was an invitation to live on purpose and with purpose?

Q4. When you get stirred-up in your faith with righteous indignation, do your resulting *thoughts* center around glorifying the Father, or are they partially centered around being *right* in your faith? How can we be more mindful that our resulting actions and thoughts, above all else, glorify the Father?

Q5. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your physical body, and your body (whole being) becomes a living temple for God's indwelling Holy Spirit. If you are willing to be transparent, what are the areas in your life where your temple has suffered and needs rededication? Has the Lord ever cleared out your temple?

## What now? (15 minutes)

Jesus creates beauty in everything and his power and ability have no limits. God's favorite of all creation is us! Think about that — WE are what the Lord desires to create beauty in! When we allow the Lord to lead our lives and we obediently follow, all the while glorifying him in the process, miraculous beauty results. We don't always perceive this beauty as we start following the Lord's direction, but his sovereign plan is far greater than what we can see or imagine. Pray for trust and to allow the Lord to continue molding beauty into you, even if it means clearing out your temple from time to time.

## Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please pray for the voiced and unvoiced prayer requests of your LIFE Group members. Pray that the Reading for Success ministry would encourage some of the Emerson families to return and worship with us, and how we as a church can be Christ-centered examples. Please also continue to pray for the Mission and Vision\* at Northwest; and that we, as a body of believers, would continue to respond to God's calling on our lives.

## Sermon Notes:

*\* Mission Statement: To help more and more people become passionate worshippers and gifted servants of Jesus Christ.*

*Vision Statement: Northwest will strive to develop leaders, equip families, and foster relationships to thrive in Jesus Christ.*