

Read John Ch 2: 1-11. During his message on Sunday, James said the story of Jesus turning water into wine could be thought of as a play in four acts.

- 1, The party.
- 2, Anticipation of something bad happening.
- 3, The bad thing happens.
- 4, The miracle!

He went on to show that this could be a metaphor of Jesus’s life.

- 1, When Jesus arrives on earth the angels celebrate and gifts are given, the party.
- 2, As Jesus’s ministry grows people start to turn against him and threaten to kill him.
- 3, They do kill him, the bad thing happens.
- 4, The miracle, Jesus is raised from the dead!

I really liked that analogy, it was new to me. **I wonder if it was new to you?** I love the way the Bible works on so many levels, like a living kaleidoscope giving us new and fresh pictures of Jesus.

Do you live with an anticipation that something bad is going to happen, or are you currently trying to get a handle on life because the ‘bad thing’ has happened?

Are you confident that God ultimately has a miracle that will pick up all the lose ends in your life?

James said that our worries and fears can be rooted in the belief that God is not enough and that He may be stingy. Is God aware of my situation? Does he care? Will he come through for me? This story shows us that God is not stingy, but big hearted and generous and that in Jesus he gives us.. **“EVERYTHING we need for life and godliness”.** **2 Peter 1:3**

Jesus is God’s greatest and most generous gift to us, opening up possibilities for us beyond our imagination. God’s perfect wine for the needs of humanity! On the back of that, I sometimes think that if Jesus is the greatest gift God could give us, then surely the next greatest gift God can give us is something that keeps us close to Jesus!!

What are the things in your life that keep you close to Jesus? What makes you run to Him?



Here are some more verses and a song connected to God's generosity and values.
How can we respond to God's generosity? How do we lay up treasure in heaven?

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:1-4

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

He lavishes grace as our burdens grow greater
He sends us more strength as our labours increase
To added afflictions He offers more mercy
To multiplied trials He multiplies peace

When we have exhausted our store of endurance
When our strength has failed and the day is half done
When we've reached the end of our earthly resources
Our Father's full giving is only begun
Our Father's full giving is only begun

So lean hard, lean hard
Lean on the everlasting arms
Lean hard, lean hard
Lean on the everlasting arms, lean on the everlasting arms

His love has no limits, His grace has no measure
His power has no boundary that's known unto men
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth and giveth and giveth again
He giveth and giveth and giveth again

You lead me beside still waters
Your goodness restores my soul
I know that you'll never leave me
I know that you won't let go
You lead me beside still waters
Your goodness restores my soul
I know that you'll never leave me
I know that you won't let go

Your mercy flows like a river
Your mercy flows like a river
Your mercy flows like a river on us

By Annie Johnson Flint, Hubert Mitchell & Lou Fellingham

