NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH
*Connecting people with God
within authentic community
where all are welcome.*

Word Notes: Sunday 28th April 2019

Tony Hodge – Encounters with Jesus 1: The Wedding Feast

Key Text: John 2:2-11

How can the world be put right?

Jesus' first reported miracle might be a well know story if you know your Bible and tucked away inside is a deep message that takes a wedding celebration and turns it into a picture of God's love and Jesus determination to put right what's wrong in the world, in us. Surely any reference to weddings, brides and grooms in the New Testament must point in some way to **THE** wedding feast of the Spiritual Bride and Groom – between Jesus and his church. That said then even here at the very start of his ministry Jesus will have had that on his mind. Now the seeming rejection of his mother "What has this to do with me? My time has not yet come" makes sense – Jesus mind is on what must happen before that feast: his giving of himself as a sacrifice to cleanse the bride, not washed with ceremonial water but with the Best Wine, the blood of the New Covenant.

Study & Application

What struck you most from Sunday's talk? How did that affect you and what will it mean in your life going forward?

If Jesus is the Bridegroom and you the Bride what does that say to you about how Jesus, and hence God, sees you? What difference does that make in you? Can anyone take away who you are and how God sees you?

Reflect on these words: "Jesus sat amidst all the joy of the wedding feast sipping the coming sorrow so that today you and I who believe in him can sit amidst all this world's sorrow sipping the coming joy."

Is that your experience? What would it take for you to know that joy which is to come here and now?

Prayer

In your small group break bread. Allow the Holy Spirit to deepen your revelation of what Jesus has done and the joy which is to come and to fill your heart with the love that meets all your needs, brings peace which the world cannot understand and allows you to face anything.