

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



Weekly Sermon Series

Anxious? There's an APP for that.

We've all been to weddings. In my experience, these occasions are often filled with high expectations, tension, anxiety, and usually some kind of social blunder. I remember a wedding where the cake took on the look of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and, much to the horror of the bride and the cake servers, the top was ready to tip over.

Another wedding I remember was postponed by a winter blizzard, and rescheduled the next week. We gathered at the church and sat with the bride in the church basement, waiting for the groom who didn't make it on time. You should have seen the anxious look on the bride's face! Some people teased her, suggesting that the groom had backed out. But eventually he arrived, entering to a round of applause.

What memories do you have of weddings with moments of anxiety? The wedding that Jesus attends in Cana also includes anxiety. Jesus' mother sees that the wine is running out and a great social embarrassment is about to happen. The anxiety is high; Jesus' mother says, "they have no wine!" Jesus responds, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4).

Yet Mary tells the servants do whatever Jesus asks. And the servants follow Jesus' orders, even though they probably doubt that the water they put in the jars will pass as wine. But it does! And it's not just any old wine; it is the best wine!

The anxious moments recede, and many wonder at this amazing event. This is the first sign that reveals Jesus' glory. And this is the beginning of the disciples' belief in Jesus.

John's account of the wedding at Cana shows us that Jesus can resolve our anxious moments. There is an abundance of grace and forgiveness for everyone. Jesus turns the wedding back into a celebration as his glory is revealed. Don't we wish all anxious situations would turn out like that? We all have anxious moments. What do you do, or what have you done, during a particularly anxious time?

New cell phones have apps you can add or purchase that do certain things. Maybe we wish Jesus was an app we could add to our phone, so we can push it whenever we need his help. Life today is stressful, and we feel anxious for many reasons. Managing our anxiety is important. Maybe a moment of prayer can help us?

Lord, I feel anxious and worried. Please give me a sense of calm. Come into my heart and give me courage and peace. Amen.

-- Week of August 15, 2010