Moment of Silence: What will truly make you happy?

**(ON SCREEN)**

**Apostles Creed**

Intro: The age of the party has died

In the place where we’d least expect it

Among the teenagers…

Teenagers in 2016 spend 1/3 of the time at parties that teenagers did in 1985

Alessia Cara captured the heart of how many teens

Have come to feel about binge drinking & crazy parties

With her song “Here” in 2015

The song was a rallying cry for the introverts

In it she talks about her secret hatred for parties

Billboard said that thanks to her

Being an introvert “has finally become cool again”

Here are a few lines from the song

**(ON SCREEN)**

I'm sorry if I seem uninterested  
Or I'm not listenin' or I'm indifferent  
Truly, I ain't got no business here  
But since my friends are here  
I just came to kick it but really  
I would rather be at home all by myself not in this room  
With people who don't even care about my well being

Cara is not alone

The statistics bear this out

A study by the CDC showed that binge drinking among high school students

has steadily declined over the last two decades

Went from 50.8% in 1991

44.7% in 2007

32.8% in 2015.

And it’s not just drinking that’s down

A National Institute of Health's survey recently found

teens aren't using drugs, drinking or

smoking weed as much as the teens that came before them

The fact is that kids are more likely to stay in and watch Netflix

In her book (mouthful of a Title but so good)

iGen: Why Today’s Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up

Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy---

And Completely Unprepared for Adulthood

And What That Means for the Rest of Us

Jean Twenge interviewed high school students

To better understand some of these trends

A 17 year old Kevin from San Diego says

“I feel like we don’t party as much. People stay in more often.

My generation lost interest in socializing in person—

they don’t have physical get-togethers, they just text together,

and they can just stay at home.”

Why don’t they party?

“People party because they’re bored—they want something to do.

Now we have Netflix—you can watch series nonstop.

There’s so many things to do on the web.”

The drop in partying would be good news

But is it good news that teens aren’t hanging out together

The number of teens who get together with their friends

every day has been cut in half in just fifteen years,

with especially steep declines recently.

It turns out less partying hasn’t equaled more hanging out

but more SCREEN TIME

More constant interaction but thru devices

In a deep twist of irony

Teens today are far safer physically today

(less likely to drink and drive, overdose or have teen pregnancy)

But far more endangered psychologically

Rates of teen depression and suicide have skyrocketed

Teens who spend more time than average on screen activities

are more likely to be unhappy, and those who spend more time

than average on non-screen activities are more likely to be happy.

There’s not a single exception.

All screen activities are linked to less happiness,

and all non-screen activities are linked to more happiness.

And lest you think this is merely a problem among teens

The same issues persist among adults

In our pursuit of happiness we moved away from the party

And toward our phones

But that hasn’t worked either

I’m not advocating that we return to the age of binge drinking

And throwing ragers

Because that didn’t bring happiness either

So what do we do?

What will truly make us happy?

There is a longing for something more

In Alessia Cara’s song she talks about that

**(ON SCREEN…next slide)**

But honestly I'd rather be  
Somewhere with my people we can kick it and just listen  
To some music with the message (like we usually do)  
And we'll discuss our big dreams  
How we plan to take over the planet

It’s a desire for something greater

A face to face conversation with her friends

About their hopes and dreams

Talking about meaning in art

And how to make the world a better place

Who wouldn’t want to be at that party?

The answer isn’t to go back to the crazy parties

Or a constant virtual connection with friends

We need a different type of party altogether

Sermon Title: **(ON SCREEN)**

**A New Way to Party: How Jesus Brings Everlasting Joy**

We are continuing our series in John

Our text is in John 2:1-12 today

We see here a different type of party

The type of party that Jesus is all about

And that of all the things Christians should be

Known for

Apparently one of those

Is that we love to FEAST

With Jesus and with one another

If you don’t have a Bible…

Let’s read it

**(ON SCREEN) John 2:1-12**

**Idea #1- No wine at a wedding**

“A wedding took place”

Weddings were a massive deal during this time

Only 1-2 per year in a region; Biggest day of your life

The expectations surrounding weddings

Were through the roof

It’s like Christmas or Thanksgiving for them

This is a huge party

Except it’s not just your family

It’s the whole community that comes

And the party might last an entire week

So Jesus, Mary and the disciples

They are at this wedding party

The feast of this groom and bride’s lifetime

*(say dramatically)*

And a tragedy happens…No more MERLOT!!!!

The outrage!!!!!

What’s going on here?

It was the groom who was responsible for the feast

He provided the food and wine

This was typically part of the bride price

So there are two reasons

This would have been particularly embarrassing

This is an honor/shame culture

This type of thing could define someone

Might result in a lawsuit

From the bride’s parents

Or being socially cast out from the community

Which was devastating in their culture

All of life was viewed thru the community

It’s like Gordon Bombay’s coach said

Right before his massive penalty shot

In the Mighty Ducks

“Gordon, if you miss this shot

You’re not just letting me down

You’re letting the whole team down too.”

So running out of wine was deeply painful

On a social and relational level

\*But there’s another reason this hurts

Wine represented joy in Hebrew culture

Countless OT passages point to this

**(ON SCREEN)**

There is an outcry in the streets for *lack of wine*;

all *joy* has grown dark;

the gladness of the earth is banished. Isaiah 24:11

No wine=No joy

An abundance of wine is also connected to God’s blessing

**(ON SCREEN)**

You (God) cause the grass to grow for the livestock

and plants for man to cultivate,

that he may bring forth food from the earth

and *wine to gladden the heart of man,*

oil to make his face shine.

and bread to strengthen man’s heart. Psalm 104:14-15

Wine is God’s blessing

Wine is a sign of joy

So the idea Mary is communicating is..

Jesus, this is terrible for them

The party is over

And with it they’ll be deeply shamed

**Idea #2 Jesus interesting response**

Jesus response to this is interesting

Honestly puzzling

**(ON SCREEN)**

“What does this have to do with you and me woman?...My hour has not yet come.”

This sounds abrupt to us

Doesn’t seem a fitting response to Mary

Is he frustrated with her?

Oh well that’s their problem

(funny emphasis)

*Had that been me* I would have had enough wine in the first place

No, that’s not what is happening

So what is going on?

“what have you to do with me” was a common phraseology

We see it from the demons to Jesus

“What have you to do with us Jesus of Nazareth?”

It’s like saying, we’re not the same

What do we have in common?

And then Jesus says this odd thing

My hour has not yet come

What does that mean?

A few other times Jesus talks about his “hour”

Comes up at least 7 more times in John alone

And every time it’s talking about his death on the cross

Jesus is just starting his ministry

He’s at a wedding celebration

And as he watches the servants run about

Saying they’ve got no more wine

*(say with surprise)*

He’s thinking about death?…seems morbid

Come on Jesus, Just enjoy the party

You’re killing the vibe

But something more is happening here

When Jesus sees the humiliation coming to this groom

That his joy has run out

He connects it to something deeper

**(ON SCREEN)**

**Point #1: Parties without Jesus always run short on joy**

Jesus recognizes that the groom isn’t the only one

Whose search for happiness has been frustrated

He sees all mankind in the groom’s problem

Even his mother Mary

Mom his problem is a universal problem

He may have run out of wine

But everyone will run out in their search for joy

The greatest treasures of this world

Endless supplies of cash…the joy runs out

Endless attention from fans…the joy runs out

Romantic love…the joy runs out

Meaningful career…the joy runs out

The family you dreamed of…the joy always runs out

Because anything we can find in this world

Is a gift meant to point to the Giver

Jesus statement is puzzling to us

Because he is thinking on a deeper level

He sees an illustration for the world

In this wedding fiasco

Mom, the joy runs out because ppl

Think this life is about the party

Or in the case of Alessia Cara & teenagers

It’s about always being entertained

Always being connected to each other

But in our search for joy

In every different thing in this world

we’re all left singing another song

That John Mayer song from 2003

“Something’s Missing”

**(ON SCREEN)**

I'm not alone  
I wish I was  
'Cause then I'd know I was down because  
I couldn't find a friend around  
To love me like they do right now

I'm dizzy from the shopping mall  
I searched for joy, but I bought it all  
It doesn't help the hunger pains  
And a thirst I'd have to drown first to ever satiate

Something's missing  
And I don't know how to fix it  
Something's missing  
And I don't know what it is

Friends  
(Check)  
Money  
(Check)  
A well slept  
(Check)  
Opposite sex  
(Check)  
Guitar  
(Check)  
Microphone  
(Check)  
Messages waiting on me when  
I come home  
(Check)

How come everything I think I need, always comes with batteries?  
What do you think it means

All the things we could possibly turn to

Relationships

Money to buy anything

Sex

Fame

Something’s Missing….Joy

And we don’t know how to fix it

So Jesus sees more in the lack of wine

If I don’t do something, the joy will always run out

No one will ever find it

Like refilling a bottle with a hole

Inevitably, it keeps growing empty

The reason we can’t find joy

Isn’t that we’re separated from

The perfect mate

Or the perfect friendship

Or the best job

Or the most satisfying experience

It’s that we’re separated from Jesus

Our joy pursuits apart from Christ

Reveal a stain on our hearts

God made us for a relationship with Himself

And we turned away from that

To worship the creation

Instead of the Creator

We’re missing joy

Because we’re missing God

And sin has made it impossible

For us to find joy

We’ve been blinded

Deadened to true joy

Unable to awaken our senses

To the beauty that is found in God

And this is why Jesus thinks of his death

There’s something about his death

That seals the hole in our bottles

That keeps the joy from running out

We need Jesus to solve our joy shortage

But before we see how he does that

We need to look at Mary’s response

It’s a beautiful lesson for all of us

So let’s go back to verse 5

To look at Mary’s response

**Show John 2:5 (ON SCREEN)**

**Idea #3 Mary’s response**

It’s highly likely that Mary is caught off guard

After all, she’s just pointed out the problem

That everyone was probably realizing

“The wine is gone…this is bad.”

And Jesus is just thinking on a different plane altogether

But there is a beauty in Mary’s response

“Do whatever he tells you.”

Mary may not have understood

How could she have understood?

But she doesn’t argue with Jesus

She recognizes that even though she’s the mom

He’s the LORD

He’s the one sent from God

And if she doesn’t understand, that’s okay

I know he’s not crazy, so I should trust him

We all should trust him

He’s the only one who can solve our problems

**(ON SCREEN)**

**Point #2- The New Way to Party is Doing Whatever Jesus Tells You**

What great advice for all of us

“do whatever he tells you.”

How simple our lives would be

If we listened for the voice of Jesus

If we studied the Scriptures to find it

To contemplate where he would be

What he would be doing

How he would be living

And the grace of God

To send his Son as a human

So we’d have a crystal clear picture

Of God living as a human

So that we can

“do whatever he tells (us).”

I think that’s why John included these words

From John 15

“I am the vine, you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in

Him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

The wine comes from the vine

We gain life from being connected to Jesus

Connect to the vine and join him in his work

Listen to him by diving into the Scriptures

So we can understand his heart

There’s a couple things I’d like us to think about

As we consider how we can Do Whatever He Tells Us

-As followers of Christ we should be a deeply generous people

Jesus didn’t just give any wine

The head waiter was shocked

You saved the best for last man!

We should be known as generous people

Willing to sacrifice so others can live

This means our money & our lives

The Christmas Mission Offering hits me this way

Every year

We are never quite ready for it

But it has been a big blessing to me this year

Yes we were frustrated at first at thinking

Of some way to get $400 out of our budget

But as we’ve thought through sacrifices

Eating out less, Being creative w/ dates

So we don’t have to spend money

Making activities at home with the kids

I’ve been deeply blessed by seeing

Our budget at the end of the month

With feast money for our friends

In Peru, East Asia, Portland & Philly

We’re feasting less

So others can come to the party!

What a great opportunity!

-we should be generous with our lives too

And that’s where I think we’ve got to think

About another amazing thing Jesus said

About the types of parties Christians should throw

“**12**He said also to the man who had invited him,

“When you give a dinner or a banquet (throw a party),

do not invite your friends or your brothers or your

relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in

return and you be repaid. **13**But when you give a feast,

invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14**and

you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you.

For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Who is invited to the party?

The poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind

Jesus guest list is surprising

He doesn’t roll out the red carpet for the A-Listers

Instead he invites the people we’d least expect

Jesus is always doing this

When people think he should be

With the strong and wealthy

He’s with the weak and poor

When people think he should be

With the religious elite of the world

He’s with the partiers

When people think he should be

With the intelligent and wise

He’s with the kids

A Jesus party is turned upside down

“Do whatever he tells you”

What does that look like for us?

We need to be a people who FEAST

With others

We should be inviting ppl to lunch

To dinners in our houses

We should be having conversations

Like Alessia Cara & her friends

The message behind the music

Sitting face to face having deeper conversation

About life and how Jesus connects to it

And when ppl see us out to lunch

They might need to do a double take

Is he really eating with that person?

Is he really talking to that person?

Ppl who make less money

Ppl who might eat in diff types of restaurants

Ppl who don’t know where there next meal is coming from

If we want to do whatever he tells us

We’re going to have to be different

We’re going to have to press into

Discomfort and embrace Jesus

The party is going to get weird

But it’s also going to be beautiful!

Because Jesus is going to be there

Living inside you and shining through you

And we just might see his power

Start to change people’s lives

When we start to look more like him

So what will Jesus do

**Idea #4 What Jesus does**

After his cryptic statement

*(say in gruff voice)*

Does he say “Come follow me

Let’s leave this God-forsaken party”

What I want is temperance

Following me is about restraining yourself all the time

It’s about resisting the world & its influences

No parties for Christians!!!!!

Oddly enough no he doesn’t

He says to the servants

Fill up these 25 gallon jars with water

I’m about to get this party started again

I’m starting a new kind of party

**(ON SCREEN)**

**Point #3- Jesus death starts the party where joy never runs out**

This is Jesus first public statement

It’s his moment to say what he’s about, who he is

And he says I’m the Lord of the party

He sees all the people running out of joy

And he pours out his power

Abundantly, lavishly

And not just some cheapo wine

This is the good stuff

The head waiter is like

Bro, you saved the best for last

The groom goes from humiliation

To celebration

He goes from zero to hero

Jesus wants us to understand something here

He sees us without joy

He sees us running short on life

And he steps in to do something about it

There are a few passages for Israelites

That might have popped into their minds

At this point when they’re reading John

One of those is Isaiah 25:6-9

Talks about a party that God starts

It says this

**(ON SCREEN)**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,

of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

**7** And he will swallow up on this mountain

the covering that is cast over all peoples,

the veil that is spread over all nations.

**8** He will swallow up death forever;

and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,

and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,

for the Lord has spoken.

**9** It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

This is the Lord; we have waited for him;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

**10** For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain, Isaiah 25:6-9

There’s a day in the future

When the LORD will throw a massive party- a feast

It will have rich food & *well-aged wine*

Choicest cuts of meat

This feast swallows up death

Wipes away pain and sadness

And who is this feast with?

It’s with the Lord

Verse 9 says “we have waited for him

That he might save us.”

Those words sound like the words of a bride

On her wedding day

I’ve waited for you

You are the husband that I’ve always longed for

And in another place in Scripture

John writes about the feast

Using the same marriage type language

In Revelation 19 he talks about it

**(ON SCREEN)**

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude,

like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns.

**7** Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

**8** it was granted her to clothe herself

with fine linen, bright and pure”—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

**9**And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who

are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to

me, “These are the true words of God.” Rev 19:6-9

Jesus first public statement: JOY to the world, the FEAST begins

The wedding feast of the Lamb

This is what Jesus is all about

Jesus came to bring the perfect wedding day

A feast beyond our comprehension

And who is the groom at this wedding

It’s Jesus, The Lamb of God

Who takes away the sin of the world

Jesus became a Lamb

He thought about death at the party

Because he knew he had to die

So we could be invited to the party

That’s the gospel

And that’s what’s so beautiful about

This passage

It’s not just about a cool party trick

Jesus is bringing the joy back to the party

He’s making it possible for us to come to the feast

But it’s not drinking wine

Or eating amazing steaks

It’s about being with Jesus