

Turning Water Into Wine

March (R), November (K), 25 A.D.

John 2:1-11

Miracle in Cana of Galilee

Seeing is Believing

Text:

John 2:1-11,

- 1. On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,**
- 2. and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.**
- 3. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."**
- 4. "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."**
- 5. His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."**
- 6. Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.**
- 7. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.**
- 8. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,**
- 9. and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside**
- 10. and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."**
- 11. This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.**

Introduction:

I. Seven great signs (miracles) are recorded in the Gospel according to John. The eighth greatest sign (miracle) was the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

A. Changing water into wine. Chapter 2.

B. Healing the officer's son. Chapter 4.

C. Healing the cripple. Chapter 5.

D. Feeding the 5,000. Chapter 6.

E. Walking on the water. Chapter 6.

F. Healing the man born blind. Chapter 9.

G. Raising Lazarus from the dead. Chapter 11.

II. Of these, (1) Healing the officer's son, (2) Feeding the 5,000, and (3) Walking on the water are also found in Matthew, Mark and Luke, the Synoptic Gospels.

III. Christ's miracles (signs) were supernatural events produced by divine power to cultivate faith on the part of his hearers in his deity, Messiahship.

Commentary:

John 2:1, On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,

I. Cana of Galilee is to be distinguished from Cana in the territory assigned to the tribe of Ephraim. (Joshua 16:9). Cana of Galilee was located 8 or 10 miles NE of Nazareth.

II. The occasion was a wedding to which Jesus, his disciples, and his mother had been invited as guests.

III. The wedding occurred on the third day after Nathaniel became a disciple of Jesus.

John 2:2, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

I. Jesus came to occasions such as this as a personable individual of social grace.

II. Jesus was not an ascetic as was John the Baptist. Jesus came eating and drinking.

John 2:3, When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

I. Wine was being served at the wedding which was customary, but the supply was inadequate for the occasion.

A. The host and/or hostess ran out of wine.

B. This would have been a great embarrassment had a solution to the problem not quickly been found.

C. Mary felt that Jesus could remedy the situation and called on her son to solve the problem.

1. Exactly why she believed Jesus could do something about the situation is not stated.
 - a. We are left to ponder.
 - b. All we know is, Mary had watched Jesus grow up for three decades.

John 2:4, “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”

I. Jesus by these words mildly and respectfully reprimanded his mother.

II. **“Mine hour has not come”** indicates that this was not the opportune occasion on which to begin his miraculous work geared to saving the lost.

John 2:5, His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

I. Mary was not discouraged. She instructed the servants to do whatever Jesus directed.

A. That Mary was in a position of importance at this wedding is indicated by the servants being responsive to her instructions.

B. It is vital that we also do whatsoever the Lord tells us to do!

John 2:6, Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

I. Six waterpots were available to be used as needed.

- A. These contained two or three firkins each.
- B. Our measurements are precise while in those ancient days handmade pottery contained variable quantities.
- C. **Mark 7:3, 4, (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)**
- D. The first century Jews were careful to ceremonially cleanse pots, hands, cups and brazen vessels which required much water and would be stored in pots such as these.
- E. Drinking water could also be stored in pots such as these.
- F. A firkin was not an exact measurement but was equal to about seven or eight gallons. The total content of these waterpots equaled between 85 and 145 gallons.

John 2:7, Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

- I. Jesus directed the servants to fill the water pots with water.
- II. The servants filled the water pots to the “brim.”
 - A. They completely obeyed the Lord with thoroughness and competence.
 - B. We are to obey the Lord to the “brim.”

C. The servants obeyed without question as we also must do.

D. By filling the pots to the brim no room was left to add anything to the contents of the pots.

John 2:8, Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so,

I. Jesus then directed the servants to serve the ruler of the feast.

II. The servants did as they were directed and without hesitation.

III. This wine was evidently fermented which was ordinarily served at Palestinian weddings of that day.

John 2:9, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside

I. The “ruler of the feast” was the person in charge of the festivities.

II. One duty of the ruler of the feast was tasting the wine before it was served.

John 2:10, and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

I. The ruler of the feast called the bridegroom and highly complimented the quality of the wine now being served, the wine Jesus had made.

II. It was customary to serve the best wine first and then, after the guests had well drunk, to serve wine of lesser quality. The opposite was the case here.

John 2:11, This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

I. This first miraculous sign declaring Christ's glory was performed in Cana of Galilee.

II. A sign points to something else; it does not exist for its own sake.

III. This sign caused the disciples to believe in Christ even more deeply.

Conclusion:

I. This wedding feast at Cana reminds us of the marriage of Christ and the church at the great day of the Lord God Almighty.

A. John 3:29, The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.

B. Matthew 9:15, Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; they then will fast.

C. Ephesians 5:22, 23, Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

D. Revelation 21:2, I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

II. May we, the church, ever be pure, faithful and true to Christ, our bridegroom!

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Questions

1. Seven great miraculous signs are recorded by John as having been performed by Jesus during his public ministry; viz., _____

_____.

2. _____ of _____ was located _____ or _____ miles _____ of _____. This town is not the same as the _____ in the territory assigned to the tribe of _____.

3. This wedding occurred on the _____ day after _____ became a _____ of _____.

4. When the _____ was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more _____."

5. Mary told the _____, "Do whatever he tells you." It is vital that we do _____ the Lord tells us to do also!

6. Six _____ were available containing _____ or _____ each. A _____ was an inexact measure equaling about _____ or _____ gallons.

7. Jesus ordered that the _____ be filled to the _____ with _____.

8. Jesus directed that some of the _____ now made into _____ be taken to the _____ of the _____ who tasted it and told the _____ that he had saved the best _____ for the last.

9. This _____ of his _____ Jesus performed at _____ in _____.

10. Jesus thus _____ his _____, and his _____ put their _____ in him.