

March 20, 2022

“Water Turned to Wine”
Lesson 2 of Unit

John 2:1-12

Intro

Today's lesson deals with one of Jesus' miracles. It is important for several reasons, but primarily because it was the first miracle He did. It happened at a wedding in Cana, a village about eight miles north of Nazareth, where Jesus lived.

Read John 1:2:1-12

1. vs. 1: The verse begins, “On the third day...”

This is referring to the third day after Jesus' meeting with Philip and Nathanael (1:43-51)
Nathanael is from Cana (see John 21:2), so he likely knows the people in the wedding

The verse also notes that Mary, Jesus' mother, was there

She may have been an aunt or cousin to the wedding family

The villages are only 8 miles apart; no doubt marriages happened between them

At the very least, she is a friend of the family, to be at the wedding

2. vs. 2: Jesus and His disciples are also there, as invited guests

They aren't there by chance, they aren't crashing the party

Jesus wasn't invited so He could do miracles—He hadn't done any yet

3. vs. 3: The wine runs out

This is unexpected—bad planning? More guests than anticipated?

Being a good host is an important value in this culture

To run out of wine at a wedding would have been highly embarrassing

There isn't a store nearby to get more wine

Someone would have to leave, go to the closest city, find a wine merchant....

The whole process could easily take half a day

Mary takes it upon herself to solve the wine-shortage problem

She turns to Jesus

She doesn't ask Him to do anything

She merely says, “They have no more wine.”

But there is an understanding in what a mother says to a son

“We need your help. You have the power to help here.”

4. vs. 4: The first part of Jesus' answer is “Why do you involve me?”

What He's really meaning is, “What does this wine shortage have to do with us? It's not our wedding.”

The wine supply isn't Jesus' problem or Mary's responsibility

The second part of Jesus' answer is "My time has not yet come."

This suggests two things:

First, Jesus has in mind a plan for revealing Himself as the Messiah

Second, that time hasn't come yet. It isn't now.

5. vs. 5: Mary tells the wedding servants to "do whatever He tells you."

This shows a high degree of faith in Jesus

1—that he will do something despite His claim that it's not His concern

2—that he will do something amazing that only He can do about the wine shortage

6. vs. 6: The focus shifts to the vessels that will be used

There are six stone water jars, noted that they are used for ceremonial washing

They belong to the family, and are not connected to the wedding ceremony

They each can hold 20-30 gallons of water (imagine 20-30 milk jugs)

7. vs. 7: Jesus begins the miracle with the instruction to "fill them to the brim."

This takes away any possibility that someone "added" something after the water was put in

The water had to be fetched from the village well

Some commentators suggest filling all 6 could have taken as much as an hour

8. vs. 8: Two things here

First Jesus tells them to draw some out of the jar

The workers know they put water in; they can't think it has anything else in it

We might wonder if the wine inside the vessel has a fragrance to it....

Second, Jesus tells them to take the sample to the "master of the banquet"

This person is the one in charge of the catering

9. vs. 9-10: These verses describe the banquet master's reaction

He doesn't know where this wine has come from

The comment that "the servants who drew the wine knew" is awesome

They know that Jesus has done something miraculous

He comments about this wine to the bridegroom

It is obviously of good quality—everything that God provides is good

It's quality is better than that of the wine served at the beginning

10. vs. 11: John's comments about this event are instructive about Jesus

First, John calls this event "the first of his miraculous signs"

John calls it (rightly) a miracle

Miracles only come from God, not from people

Second, John says that this event "revealed his glory"

The miracle's purpose was to show Jesus' divinity and divine glory

Third, because of this miracle, the disciples "put their faith in him"

They believe in him because they have seen the result—his miracle

We believe in Jesus as the Christ because we believe the reports of the disciples

They have the support of Jesus' life, and our changed lives

11. vs. 12: Jesus goes to Capernaum after the wedding miracle

The gospels show that Jesus went to Capernaum regularly

It is essentially his “second home” (see Matt. 4:13 and Mark 2:1)

He is accompanied by his mother, his brothers, and his disciples

There is a growing group of followers / disciples

Application: Changing the water into wine is Jesus’ first miracle, according to John. In John 20:30, the apostle notes that Jesus did more miracles that John wrote about in his gospel. John only included some to reveal aspects of Jesus’ divinity.

The second miracle of Jesus in John’s gospel also occurs in Cana. Jesus heals a nobleman’s ill son without going near him. Jesus’ word was sufficient to heal this son. As with the wine miracle, this one causes a growth in faith. John 4:53 says that the nobleman “himself believed, and his whole household.”

Since the disciples placed their faith in Jesus after seeing the wine miracle, and the nobleman believed his son would be healed based on what Jesus said, it seems reasonable that we too would have placed our faith in Jesus had we been there at the time. Those who seek God see things with His eyes, with His heart. May that continue to be true of us as we continue our daily walk with Him.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for all the ways you have provided us with indicators that have allowed us to know You and to believe in You and trust You. Help us continually walk with the eyes of faith that led us to You in the first place. In Jesus’ name, Amen.