

"The First Miracle"

John 2:1-11

Introduction: As we get back to our study of John, we are stepping into John 2 tonight and it is here that we will see the first miracle that Jesus did at the beginning of His public ministry. This miracle will be the first of 7 signs that John records.

1. Turning water to wine 2:2-11
2. Healing the nobleman's son 4:46-54
3. Healing the paralytic 5:1-18
4. Feeding the five thousand 6:1-14
5. Walking on water 6:15-21
6. Healing the blind man 9:1-41
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead 11:1-44

These signs are recorded by John to prove that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and they are to lead people to place their faith in Him for the forgiveness of sin. Let us now get to the miracle.

➤ **The Setting**

Notice John 2:1

There are a couple of thoughts that we need to see in this verse. We are told that this miracle will happen on the third day and that it will take place in Cana of Galilee. When the Bible speaks of the third day or the number 3, we cannot help but think of what took place on the greatest third day of all, and that was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, what we are going to see in this miracle is a picture of something that takes place in the Third Day power.

The fact that this miracle takes place in Cana of Galilee is very interesting based upon what is recorded in Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations [Gentiles].

² *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*

⁶ *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

⁷ *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

Isaiah tells us that Galilee was a Gentile region. This too will play into the picture in the miracle.

Notice John 2:1-2

We see in these verses that there was a wedding, and Jesus and His disciples were invited, and they all came to the wedding.

Application:

This is a reminder of how every wedding should be carried out. It should begin by inviting Jesus to be present so that His blessing will rest upon the couple as they start a new chapter in their lives. I also might add that Jesus desires to be present at all wedding. The institution of marriage was given to man from the Lord. This is the plan of God for the family. It starts with a wedding that honors the Lords and brings His blessing upon the husband and wife as they begin to live as a new family.

Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸ *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

¹⁹ *And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

²⁰ *And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

²¹ *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*

²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Notice 1 John 2:3

Here we see that the wine had run out during the wedding ceremony. The weddings at this time could last up to a week and the those who were holding the celebration were expected to keep the food and drink supplied for the entire time. So, to run out of wine presented a problem. Notice the words of Merrill Tenney.

"To fail to provide adequately for the guests would involve social disgrace. In the closely knit communities of Jesus' day, such an error would never be forgotten and would haunt the newly married couple all their lives."

Notice the words of Thomas Constable.

"The loss would not only have been social disgrace, however, but also financial since grooms had a legal responsibility in that culture to provide a suitable feast for their guests. Our bridegroom stood to lose financially-say, up to about half the value of the presents Jesus and his party ought to have brought."

When they had run out of wine, Mary took it upon herself to come to Jesus with the problem.

Application:

When Mary does this, she becomes an example for us when we are faced with the needs of life. She goes straight to Jesus with the need. She does not try to resolve the matter on her own. She knows the One who is greater than all the problems we face and therefore she turns to Jesus. I wonder how much trouble and heartache we would save ourselves if we would follow Mary's example? Too often Jesus is the last resort when we are faced with a need. We try everything we can in our power to solve the issue and in so doing we usually end up in a state of frustration which could have been avoided.

Notice John 1:4

Here is a verse that many people struggle with because as we read it seems as though Jesus was not very polite to His mother. But that is wrong. He is addressing her in a way that is completely acceptable in His day. He was not being cold toward her, but He is reminding her of something that all of us need to consider. In this statement Jesus is reminding Mary that He is in complete control of the events in His life and there is a time for each event to unfold. Jesus' identity would be revealed in stages and would reach the pinnacle in His death, burial and resurrection.

John 10:17-18

¹⁷ Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

¹⁸ No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Let us keep in mind that Jesus ultimate purpose while on the earth was to glorify God.

Notice John 2:5

Mary speaks up to the servants and the advice she gives is advice that we all need to heed.

Application:

Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus said to do. If only we would heed these words of Mary. How many times has the Holy Spirit impressed upon our hearts to do something and we have brushed it off? It may have been to help someone, it may have been to pray with someone, it may have been to pick up our phone and call someone, or it may have been to tell someone about our faith Jesus. Thinking about what happens here at the wedding it makes me wonder what we have missed because we did not do that which our Lord impressed upon us to do.

➤ **The Miracle**

Notice John 2:6-7

There were 6 water pots here and they had been used for cleansing purposes. Jesus commanded the servants to fill the water pots with water. The servants did as they were commanded and they filled the pots to the brim.

Application:

There are a couple of thoughts to consider here.

First let us consider what Jesus was facing. This would be His first public miracle. Once this miracle was done His life would never be the same. Following this miracle He would have little quiet time. When He would desire to get alone with the Father He would need to walk away from the crowds or He would need to wait until the people were sleeping. This miracle which started His public ministry would forever change His life. But our Lord never hesitated. He had come to do the will of the Father and for that reason He would turn the water into wine.

The second point we need to see here is the obedience of the servants. They did not just put water in the pots, but they filled them to the brim. This should cause us to examine our lives as we serve. Do we serve in such a way that our service is "TO THE BRIM"? Do we give all we have when our Lord gives us something to do? This should be the way we carry out our service to the Lord no matter what it is. If you teach, help in the kitchen, clean, or serve in any way it should always be TO THE BRIM.

Notice John 2:8-11

The water that was put into the pots was turned wine and it was served at the wedding. This wine was far better than the wine which was first served at the wedding. We need to notice here that the ruler of the feast did not know where the wine came from, but the servants did.

Application:

When we get involved and we serve the Lord we are given a deeper understanding concerning His ways. To choose not to get involved and to choose not to serve keeps us from a deeper understanding of God.

Psalm 103:6-7

⁶ *The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.*

⁷ *He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.*

Here in verse 7, we see that God allowed Moses to know His ways, but the people only knew the acts of God. What is the difference? Notice the words of Blackaby.

"This difference is illustrated in the lives of the children of Israel as compared to Moses. The Israelites witnessed the miracles God performed; they walked across the dry Red Sea

just as Moses did. They ate the manna and quail from heaven even as Moses did. They were content to receive God's provision without ever knowing God Himself. Yet Moses saw beyond the provision of God to the person of God."

Conclusion:

There is within this miracle a beautiful picture of what Jesus came to do.

Wine in the Bible represents joy.

Psalm 104:14-15

¹⁴ He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;

¹⁵ And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

At the wedding the wine ran out and so we can understand that they had no lasting joy. There were 6 empty water pots at the wedding. Six is the number of man and therefore these water pots are a picture of man. They were cold and empty.

The pots were filled with water and in the Bible, water is seen as being symbolic of the Word of God.

Ephesians 5:25-26

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

So, the picture is when the unsaved man has the Word of God poured into his life that there is a miracle that takes place on the inside and that is he is born again. He then experiences what True joy is because the joy of salvation is far better than the joy of the world. This is the miracle that happens in every person who gets saved.