

JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE

John 2:1-11

(John 2:1-11), "And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: {2} And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. {3} And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. {4} Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. {5} His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. {6} And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. {7} Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. {8} And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. {9} When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, {10} And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. {11} This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him."



When you preach a sermon on Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine, it is inevitable that **FOLKS WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE PREACHER THINKS** about drinking wine. **MY OPINION** is that getting caught up in answering that question results in missing the real intent of Jesus' first miracle. Beside that, I would just as soon kiss a frog as to talk about it. Nonetheless, I will answer the question. I will answer it as a part of the introduction to this message because answering it in the course of this message messes up the flow of thought. The message found in this miracle is so much deeper than a discussion about wine.

I READ OF A **DRUNKEN COAL MINER** who was converted and became a *teetotaler*. Because he was such a vocal witness of his new faith, and because he was so committed to total abstinence, his old buddies gave him a hard time. They asked him, "Don't you believe in the miracle where Jesus turned water into wine?" He said, "I sure do, because in my house He turned wine into food, clothing and furniture for my children."

MY PERSONAL CONVICTION regarding wine, or any other alcoholic drink, is that **TOTAL ABSTINENCE IS THE BEST WAY**. I realize there are many believers around the world who love the Lord with all their hearts who drink wine. I thank God for them and love them in the Lord, but my personal conviction is still that abstinence is the best course.

KERBY ANDERSON MAKES A GOOD CASE FOR ABSTINENCE.

"The social costs of alcohol are staggering. Alcoholism is the third largest health problem (following heart disease and cancer). Often alcohol-related medical problems begin before birth. More than forty thousand babies are born at risk each year because their mothers drank alcohol during pregnancy."

"There are an estimated ten million problem drinkers in the American adult population, and an estimated 3.3 million teenagers are problem drinkers. Half of all traffic fatalities and one-third of all traffic injuries are alcohol-related. Alcohol is involved in sixty-seven percent of all murders and thirty-three percent of all suicides."

"Alcohol is also a prime contributor to the breakdown of American families. A high percentage of family violence, parental abuse and neglect, lost wages, and divorce are tied to the abuse of alcohol in this country. In a

George Gallup poll, nearly one-fourth of all Americans cited alcohol and/or drug abuse as one of three factors most responsible for the high divorce rate in this country.” (Anderson, J. Kerby. Moral Dilemmas. Nashville: Word, 1998, p. 101, cited in *Holman New Testament Commentary*, pg 41-42)

This message represents the first time I have ever preached a sermon from this passage in the course of my ministry. On the Sunday this message was delivered, we had the privilege of introducing **A MAN** who had lived on the streets as an alcoholic for twenty-five years. He was given special recognition that day because he had been **ALCOHOL FREE** for the past twelve months of his life. He attributed his victory to the Lord Jesus.

As a pastor, I could not bear the thought of my influence being used to weaken any restraint that might keep a person from the sorrows associated with alcohol. I would gladly **GIVE UP MY “RIGHTS”** if doing so helped keep another person from a life of sorrow.

- **(Rom 14:21)**, “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.”
- **(1 Cor 8:9)**, “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a **STUMBLINGBLOCK** to them that are weak.”
- **(1 Cor 10:23)**, “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things **EDIFY NOT.**”

HAVING ANSWERED THE QUESTION, let’s get on with the study of Jesus’ first miracle.

This particular message **DEFIED AN OUTLINE**. Every attempt at an outline seemed to take away from the message rather than add to it. We will simply follow a verse by verse presentation of this passage.

JOHN 2 IS THE FIRST OF THIRTY-FIVE RECORDED MIRACLES that Jesus performed (from Bible Knowledge Commentary). **EIGHT** of those thirty-five miracles are presented in the Book of John. **SIX OF THOSE EIGHT** miracles are found only in the Book of John and not in the other Gospels. For example, the miracle described in John 2 is not recorded in the other three Gospels.

(V. 11), “**THIS BEGINNING OF MIRACLES** did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, . . . ”

- S **FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN ANY RELATIONSHIP. “FIRST THINGS” and “LAST THINGS”** tend never to be forgotten.
- S IF YOU VISIT **AN ELDERLY PERSON** and they reminisce regarding their **DECEASED SPOUSE**, it is common for them to **SHARE TWO MEMORIES** related to their departed spouse:
 - 1) They often tell **how, when** and **where** **THEY FIRST MET** their spouse. They often reminisce about their **wedding**. Their first experiences together are a source of fond memories.
 - 2) It is common for them to share regarding **THE DEATH OF THEIR SPOUSE**. Spouses tend never to forget their **FIRST HELLO**, or their **LAST GOODBYE**.
- S **REALIZING JOHN 2 REPRESENTS JESUS’ FIRST MIRACLE, HOW MUCH THOUGHT** do you suppose went into THE **HOW**,

WHEN and WHERE? It is pure speculation, but **DO YOU SUPPOSE** the Father and Son worked out the details of the first miracle before it ever took place? Did they coordinate the details? **IF SO, WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE** they choose the miracle described in our text? Out of **the thousand** different possible miracles, **why** did they choose turning water into wine at a wedding? That is worth some serious thought.

S HOPEFULLY, SOME OF **THOSE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED** in the course of this message.

(V. 1), “And **THE THIRD DAY . . .**”

S John gave a **CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE** of the things Jesus did **THE FIRST WEEK** of His ministry:

- **DAY ONE - JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS CONFRONTED** by a **DELEGATION** from Jerusalem asking who he was (1:19).
- **“THE NEXT DAY”** (1:29). **JESUS WAS IDENTIFIED** by John the Baptist as, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” **(DAY TWO)**
- **“AGAIN THE NEXT DAY”** (1:35). Jesus walked by John the Baptist and was again identified as the *Lamb of God*. **ANDREW** and **THE OTHER DISCIPLE** (probably John) followed Jesus to His lodging place. Andrew ran and found his brother **PETER** and brought him to Jesus. **(DAY THREE)**
- **“THE DAY FOLLOWING”** (1:43). Jesus found **PHILIP** and told him to follow. Philip went and told **NATHANAEL** that he had found the Messiah. **(DAY FOUR)**
- **FIFTH DAY** - (nothing is stated)
- **SIXTH DAY** - (nothing is stated)
- **“THE THIRD DAY”** (2:1). That time reference appears to mark the third day after Jesus had called Nathanael **(DAY SEVEN)**

S **JESUS’ FIRST WEEK WAS VERY BUSY!**

HE DID A LOT OF **WALKING**:

- ◆ He began at **BETHANY** where John was baptizing (1:28 - also called *Bethabara*). The suggested location for this place was on the Jordan river near the Dead Sea.
- ◆ Jesus journeyed north up to **GALILEE** where He called Philip to follow him. Philip was from the town of **Bethsaida** on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee. We are not told whether Jesus went to Bethsaida.
- ◆ Jesus ended up in the town of **CANA**, a city about 10 miles from Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth. You might recall that **Nathanael** was from the town of Cana.
- ◆ **THE DISTANCE FROM BETHANY to CANA**, the hometown of Nathanael, was approximately **72 MILES**. Jesus had walked at least 72 miles the first week of His ministry. When was the last time we walked 72 miles in one week?

S **JESUS DID A LOT OF MINISTRY THAT FIRST WEEK:**

- ◆ **HE CHANGED THE LIVES OF FIVE MEN** all of whom

would eventually become members of His twelve disciples. The five men were **Andrew, John, Peter, Philip** and **Nathanael** (better known as Bartholomew).

- ◆ HE WENT TO **A WEDDING** on the seventh day.

(V. 1), “... THERE WAS A MARRIAGE ... ”

THREE FACTS ABOUT THIS WEDDING:

- FACT #1 -** IT WAS IN “**CANA OF GALILEE** ” (V. 1). Perhaps Jesus was in Cana because it was the hometown of Nathanael.
- FACT #2 -** “**THE MOTHER OF JESUS** was in attendance” (V. 1). Although Jesus’ mother was present, the name *Mary* is not given in the passage. In fact, the name *Mary* is not used in the entire Gospel of John (2:12; 6:42; 19:25-27). The fact that **MARY** asked Jesus to help out at the wedding suggests that she must have had **a place of responsibility** in the wedding. Perhaps she was closely associated with the bride and groom.
- FACT #3 -** “**JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WERE INVITED**” (V. 2). One author stated, “Wise is that couple who invites Jesus to their wedding!” (Warren Wiersbe). The way this statement is worded makes you wonder if Jesus’ invitation to the wedding was a last minute thing.

- S IT IS **NOTEWORTHY** THAT **JESUS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO THE WEDDING. JESUS ALWAYS WENT TO THE PEOPLE** rather than waiting for the people to come to Him. That reality became a source of criticism against Jesus by adversaries.
 - **(Mark 2:16)**, “And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, ‘How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?’”
 - **JESUS’ RESPONSE TO THEM:**
(Mark 2:17), “. . . They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

- S **JESUS WENT TO THE PEOPLE** rather than waiting for the people to come to Him.
 - **(Luke 19:10)**, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - **(Luke 14:23)**, “And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”

A PAST STAFF MEMBER once told me of **A MAN** he had known in earlier years that had a rather terse statement regarding church visitation. He said, “We pay the electricity down at the church. The lights are on and the building is warm. If they want to come, the door is open, they can come.” **HOW UNLIKE JESUS!**

(V. 1), “... THERE WAS A MARRIAGE ... ”

- S AT MOST WEDDINGS THE **CENTER OF ATTENTION** IS THE BRIDE AND GROOM. At this particular wedding the **names** of the bride and groom were not even mentioned. The focus of attention was

upon the fact that **JESUS** was in attendance.

S **SPECULATION HAS SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN WHY JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES** attended this particular wedding. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED that this wedding was for **A RELATIVE** of Jesus, perhaps even **Jesus' own sister**. Other people have suggested this wedding was for A FRIEND OF **NATHANAEL** who was from the town of Cana (John 21:2).

ALL THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE **100 PERCENT PURE SPECULATION**. The bottom line is we are **not told whose** wedding Jesus attended, **nor why** He was invited. What we know for sure is that **JESUS WAS AT THAT WEDDING** and it took place in Cana of Galilee.

SIGNIFICANT FOR US IS THE FACT THAT God had CHOSEN A WEDDING AS **THE BACKDROP** FOR HIS FIRST MIRACLE.

Marriage was God's **first established institution** on earth, established even before government. It is **only fitting** that marriage was sanctioned by our Lord's presence. His first miracle was performed at a wedding. Jesus' presence stated a that wedding **spoke all by itself**. Jesus was going to spend His life single, but do not interpret that to mean that marriage is unimportant. "Marriage is honorable in all, . . ." (Heb 13:4).

WHILE AT THE WEDDING, **SOMETHING WENT HORRIBLY WRONG: (V. 3 nkjv)**, "And when **they ran out of wine**, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "**THEY HAVE NO WINE.**"

S In Jesus' day weddings were more than **a two or three hour** gathering. Wedding celebrations often lasted **SEVEN DAYS**. They were often grand and marvelous feasts.

After a Jewish couple had been betrothed for about one year, the day of the wedding would arrive. THE **GROOM**, dressed up like a prince, would gather **his attendants**, usually at night, and lead them to the bride's house. THE **BRIDE** would be waiting **fully prepared** in all her splendor because she did **not know the exact time** of the groom's arrival. The groom and bride would then **pass through the streets ACCOMPANIED** by **bridesmaids, singers & dancers**. During that procession it was common that **the neighbors** along the path would **shout & cheer** as the wedding party passed by.

Upon arrival at their destination, the wedding **ceremony & feast** would often begin and last for as many as **seven days**. The entire celebration was **A BIG DEAL. TO BE UNPREPARED** for such an occasion would have been the height of **humiliation** and **embarrassment**.

S **PERHAPS YOU HAVE HAD THE UNHAPPY EXPERIENCE OF BEING UNPREPARED FOR SOME MOMENTOUS OCCASION.**

- I HEARD OF A PASTOR WHO FORGOT A **FUNERAL**. As a result he was unprepared. I have not done that yet, but the thought of it terrifies me. One of the greatest dreads of my life would be to receive a phone call from the funeral home with a voice of desperation crying out, "Pastor, the funeral was supposed to have begun five minutes ago."
- I KNOW A PERSON WHO FORGOT A **COLLEGE EXAM**. As a result

they were unprepared. That person walked into their classroom that day and suddenly realized they had completely forgotten to study. That young lady began to cry right on the spot.

- On occasion I have dreamed that **I HAVE NOT PREPARED MY SERMON** and it is **TIME TO PREACH**. The music is finished and it is time for me to preach and I am not at all prepared. For me that is a nightmare.

S **JUST IMAGINE PLANNING A WEDDING** that you would **HOST** in your home. You send out invitations to all your friends so they might attend this grand occasion which you are hosting. **SUPPOSE** that during the festivities the electricity goes out at your house and it is nighttime. You check the breakers and none are thrown. You quickly run to the telephone and call the utility company to find out what is wrong. To your horror you discover you have neglected to pay your electric bill and they cut off because of delinquent payments. Do you suppose you might suffer a terrible case of **EMBARRASSMENT?** The whole fiasco would be your fault. The bride and groom's **happiest moment was ruined** because of your neglect and lack of preparation. If it were possible, you would disappear and never show your face in public again. There would be no excuse acceptable to those who had made such sacrifice to come to such a grand occasion.

S **IN LIKE MANNER** there was **NO ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE** in middle eastern culture for running out of wine at a wedding. To do so was unpardonable.

(V. 3 nkjv), "And when they ran out of wine, **THE MOTHER OF JESUS SAID TO HIM, "THEY HAVE NO WINE."**"

S **WAS MARY ASKING FOR A MIRACLE?** Some would say, **"NO,"** while others think the answer might be, **"YES."**

- **ON THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO SAY "NO"** is the fact that this was Jesus' first miracle. The text specifically states this was the first of Jesus' miracles. How would Mary have known to ask Jesus for a miracle since she never seen Him perform a miracle before?
- **ON THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO SAY "YES"** is the fact that Mary and Jesus were mother and son. It is safe to assume that Jesus had communicated to His mother that He was about to enter into the ministry for which He had come. Would Mary have grilled Jesus regarding what all that meant? Would Jesus have shared any of the details with her? **MARY KNEW** that her Son was going to be someone extra ordinary. **THE ANGEL GABRIEL HAD SAID TO HER BEFORE JESUS WAS EVER BORN:**

(Luke 1:31-35), "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name **JESUS**. {32} **HE SHALL BE GREAT**, and shall be called the **SON OF THE HIGHEST**: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: {33} And **HE SHALL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOR EVER; AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE SHALL BE NO END**. {34} Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? {35} And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the

power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee SHALL BE CALLED **THE SON OF GOD.**"

- S **PERHAPS WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL WE GET TO HEAVEN** to know exactly what all Mary's request entailed. Without a doubt Mary's **MOTIVATION** was rooted in rescuing the bride and groom from humiliation and embarrassment.

JESUS' REPLY was spoken for **MARY'S SAKE**. It was also spoken for the **DISCIPLES' SAKE**. It was spoken so that it might be recorded in **SCRIPTURE** for all time so that we, too, might hear it.

(V. 4), "JESUS SAITH UNTO HER, **WOMAN**, what have I to do with thee? **MINE HOUR** is not yet come."

- S We are told the word "WOMAN" was **NOT AS STERN** in Jewish culture as it appears to be in ours. Jesus used that word again in John 19:26 when He spoke to His mother from the cross, ". . . **Woman, behold thy son!**"

- S **BUT JESUS' WORDS THAT FOLLOWED** SEEMED TO BE RATHER **POINTED AND STERN**:

(KJV), ". . . What have I to do with thee? . . ."

(NKJV), ". . . What does your concern have to do with Me? . . ."

(NIV), ". . . Why do you involve me? . . ."

- S **AT THE VERY LEAST**, Jesus was communicating to His mother that He was no longer **under her supervision**. He was no longer a child, He was an **ADULT**. **ALL PARENTS** have to accept a time when their children become adults. Sometimes they have to inform us of that reality.

- S **A SECOND THING** seemed to take place through Jesus' statement to Mary. In light of all Jesus' recorded statements **to** Mary, or **about** Mary, it is possible that Jesus was **SETTING THE STAGE FOR A PROPER BIBLICAL ATTITUDE** to have toward Mary. Consider the different times Jesus referred to His mother.

1) **IN JERUSALEM AT AGE TWELVE**

(Luke 2:49-50), "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? {50} And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them."

2) **AT THE WEDDING IN CANA**

(John 1:4), "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? **MINE HOUR IS NOT YET COME.**"

3) **IN A BIG CROWD**

(Mat 12:46-50), "While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. {47} Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. {48} But he answered and said unto him that told him, **WHO IS MY MOTHER?** and who are my brethren? {49} And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! {50} For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same

is my brother, and sister, and mother."

- 4) **A CERTAIN WOMAN IN A CROWD SAID TO JESUS**
(Luke 11:27-28), "... 'Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.' {28} But he said, 'Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.'"
- 5) **JESUS SAID TO HIS MOTHER FROM THE CROSS**
(John 19:26), "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, '**WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON!**'"
- S **WITH THIS BEING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, WHAT SHOULD OUR ATTITUDE BE TOWARD MARY** based on these passages? **RESPECT** and **ADMIRATION** are certainly in place. God chose Mary to be the earthly mother of Jesus. She was highly honored by God Himself and she should be honored among us. The Bible says to give honor to whom honor is due. But in light of all the statements Jesus made regarding His mother, one can conclude that Jesus wanted to make very clear that **WORSHIP AND VENERATION** of Mary **WERE NOT, and ARE NOT, ACCEPTABLE**. Mary was a human being just like we are. God alone is to be worshiped.

(V. 4), "... **WOMAN, WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH THEE? MINE HOUR IS NOT YET COME.**"

- S The Bible gives the strong impression that **JESUS WAS ON A DIVINE TIMETABLE**. At the end of Jesus' earthly ministry was a period of time often referred to as the "**HOUR.**" Jesus was determined to allow nothing to keep Him from that "hour." He would let nothing supercede His purpose for coming to earth.
- S **FOUR EXAMPLES:**
 - (1) **(John 7:30)**, "... But no man laid hands on him, because **HIS HOUR WAS NOT YET COME.**"
 - (2) **(John 8:20)**, "... No man laid hands on him; for his **HOUR** was not yet come."
 - (3) **(John 12:23)**, "And Jesus answered them, saying, **THE HOUR IS COME**, that the Son of man should be glorified."
 - (4) **(John 13:1)**, "Now before the feast of the passover, when **JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR WAS COME** that **HE SHOULD DEPART** out of this world unto the Father, . . . "
- S **WAS MARY TRYING TO GET JESUS TO SPEED UP GOD'S TIMETABLE?** Such an action would not have been too unusual. When we ask Jesus to come back today, are we not trying to speed up God's timetable?

MARY SAID TO THE SERVANTS

(V. 5), "... 'Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.'"

- S That statement of Mary would make **A GOOD MOTHER'S DAY TEXT**. Shouldn't every mother tell her children to do whatsoever Jesus

tells them to do?

- S LISTEN TO SOME **GOOD ADVICE - WHATEVER JESUS TELLS YOU TO DO - DO IT!** What is He telling you to do?

(V. 6), “And there were set there **SIX WATER POTS OF STONE**, after the manner of the **PURIFYING** of the Jews, containing **TWO OR THREE FIRKINS APIECE.**”

- S **IN THE LITTLE CHURCH** built on one of the sites that claims to be the location of Jesus’ first miracle are some stone water pots that would be like the ones Jesus used. Because they were made of stone, they were very heavy.
- S **THE SIX STONE POTS HAD A SPECIFIC PURPOSE.** They were used for **“PURIFYING”** (V. 6). When you entered into a Jewish home in Jesus’ day, it was proper to have water present for the purpose of washing hands and feet. **THE PHARISEES** asked Jesus on one occasion why His disciples transgressed the tradition of the elders by not washing their hands when they eat bread (Mat 15:1-2). Those six stone pots were for ceremonial cleansing.
- S Each of the six pots held between **TWENTY and THIRTY GALLONS.** Put all the calculations together from verse six and you discover those pots held between **120 to 180 GALLONS.** That was a lot of water.
- S **THOSE SIX STONE POTS** were going to **BE USED BY JESUS** for His first miracle.

(V. 7-10 nkjv), “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.””

- S From those four verses we can **MAKE TWO CONCLUSIONS** and **ASK TWO QUESTIONS.**

TWO CONCLUSIONS:

- (1) **THE MASTER OF THE FEAST** had to taste the wine before he discovered it was superior to what they had already been drinking. He was surprised by his discovery. That means **HE WAS UNAWARE OF JESUS’ MIRACLE WHEN IT FIRST TOOK PLACE.** Jesus, Mary, the **disciples** and the **servants** may have been the only ones to observe the miracle when it took place.
- (2) **THE MASTER OF THE BANQUET** probably **did not know** the wine had come from **THE CEREMONIAL WASH POTS.** Had he known, he might not have drunk it. To have drunk from a stone wash pot would have been **UNTHINKABLE.**

TWO QUESTIONS:

- (1) **WHEN WAS THE WATER TURNED TO WINE?** Was it while it was in the pots? Or was it turned to wine once it was drawn out and served. Jesus not only told them to fill the pots, He told them to draw it

out and serve it. Some believe the miracle took place as it was served?

(2) **WHY WINE? OUT OF THE THOUSAND DIFFERENT POSSIBLE THINGS JESUS COULD HAVE DONE, WHY WATER INTO WINE?**

IN SCRIPTURE, WINE IS SOMETIMES **A SYMBOL FOR JOY:**

- **(Judg 9:13)**, "'But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?'"
- **(Psa 104:15)**, "And wine which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make his face glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart."

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MIRACLE IS MUCH GREATER than water being turned into wine. **THIS MIRACLE IS AN ETERNAL STATEMENT ABOUT JESUS.** Jesus' statement in Matthew 9:14-17 helps to understand that fact.

(Mat 9:14-17), "Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and **THE PHARISEES FAST OFT**, but thy disciples fast not? {15} And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast. {16} No man putteth a piece of **NEW CLOTH** unto an **OLD GARMENT**, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. {17} Neither do men put **NEW WINE** into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

JESUS WAS NOT really giving instruction on how to mend old clothes and how to carry wine. Jesus was drawing **A CONTRAST** between **HIMSELF AND THE O.T. LAW.**

- The *O.T. Law* was God's good Word, but it could only bring condemnation and death. Condemnation of sin is necessary, because we have to know we are sinners before we can find salvation.
- **IN CONTRAST** Jesus brought **LIFE AND GRACE.** The *law* brought *death*, while Jesus brought *life*.

IN OTHER WORDS Jesus is in the business of transforming death into life. Jesus has the ability to **TRANSFORM WATER INTO WINE.**

- He takes **death** and turns it into **life**
- He takes **sinners** and makes them into **saints**
- Jesus takes **old things** and make them **brand new.**
- Jesus takes **broken** lives and makes them **whole**
- He takes **sorrow**, and turns it into **joy**
- He takes **emptiness** and makes it **fullness**
- He takes the **ordinary** and makes it into the **extraordinary**
- He takes a **wilderness** and turns it into a **garden**

IN THIS RESPECT JESUS IS SUPERIOR to the *law*. Jesus came to *fulfill the law* (Mat 5:17). **IN THIS RESPECT GOD HAD KEPT THE BEST FOR LAST.**

SONG:

"Something beautiful, something good.

All my confusion, He understood.

All I had to offer Him was **BROKENNESS AND STRIFE,**

And He made something beautiful of my life."

IT IS INTERESTING THAT JESUS USED STONE WATER POTS TO PERFORM HIS FIRST MIRACLE. Isn't it **wonderful** that God could use stone pots to accomplish His purpose? He did not have to have a silver or golden vessels. He used stone pots.

S I hope I don't stretch the analogy too far, but can we suggest that **THE STONE POTS** represent you and me in God's service. Have you ever thought of yourself as **AN OLD POT?** Maybe some of us are **CRACKED POTS.** We are beaten and battered and scratched pots. We might think of ourselves as unusable, but we aren't. If God could use those stone pots in Cana, He can use us.

If the stone pot represents us, what does the water represent? We will say the water in the pot represents the Word of God. It is common in Scripture that *water* is used as a symbol of *God's Word*. The Scripture tells us to fill ourselves up with His Word.

Jesus told the servants to dip the water out of the pot and serve it. When the water was drunk, it was discovered to be wine. We are told to share God's Word with others. When we share God's Word, something miraculous can take place. God can turn the water into wine. It is amazing how it happens. We share the Word of God with others and their lives are often changed.

(V. 11), "This beginning of **MIRACLES** did Jesus in Cana of Galilee . . ."

S The word translated "**MIRACLE**" (KJV) is the Greek word for "**SIGN**" ("SEMEION")

S **A SIGN IS** something that points beyond itself. Signs are especially important when driving through mountains at night. They tell us what is up ahead. The sign is not important in itself. The sign is important because it points out what is up ahead. Just suppose someone stopped on a mountain road beside a sign. Suppose they began to talk about how wonderful the sign was. That would border on the ridiculous. Yet there are many folks in the Bible who ranted and raved about the "signs," rather than focusing on the object of the sign. Jesus said, ". . . An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign . . ." (Mat 12:39). Miracles are not important in themselves, they are important because of *what* (or *whom*) they point to.

(Mat 16:1-3), "The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them **A SIGN (semeion)** from heaven. {2} He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. {3} And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the **SIGNS** of the times?"

(V. 11), "This beginning of miracles {signs} did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and **MANIFESTED FORTH HIS GLORY**; . . ."

S "**GLORY**" speaks of that which is **EXTRAORDINARILY MAGNIFICENT**. Through this miracle in John 2, Jesus pulled back the curtain a little bit and let us get a glimpse of His eternal glory. There was about Jesus' that which was **glorious, radiant, beautiful,**

majestic, and splendorous.

S JOHN WROTE:

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and WE BEHELD HIS **GLORY**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

S LATER JESUS WOULD SAY TO MARTHA:

(John 11:40), “. . . Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst **SEE THE GLORY OF GOD?**"

(V. 11), “This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; AND HIS DISCIPLES **BELIEVED ON HIM.**"

S JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE PRODUCED **ITS DESIGNED EFFECT**. The disciples realized they had made the right decision in following Jesus. Jesus helped them take one step closer to a strong and bold faith in Jesus. They still had tons of lessons to learn, but they were growing.

S THIS MIRACLE **PROVIDES SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE FOR ALL TO BELIEVE IN JESUS**. It is not necessary for us to study the other thirty-four miracles in order to believe. This miracle revealed enough of Jesus' *glory* for all the world to know that Jesus is God.

PRACTICAL TRUTHS:

(1) JESUS CAN TRANSFORM LIVES

If Jesus can turn **water** into **wine**, He can turn **a trouble lost life** into **a saved stable life**.

- **SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS** is easy for God to bring to pass.
- **2 Cor 5:17**

(2) GOD CAN USE YOU AND ME

If Jesus can use **stone water pots**, He can use us.

- God is not looking for **ability**, He is looking for **availability**.
- God has used many things that were made available to Him. He has used **a rod, a sack lunch** and **two fish and five loaves of bread**.

(3) GOD IS A GOD OF ABUNDANCE.

Jesus made **LOTS OF WINE — 120 to 180 GALLONS**.

- **(John 10:10)**, “. . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more **ABUNDANTLY**."
- **(John 7:38)**, “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow **RIVERS** of living water."
- God took **MOSES' ROD** and delivered Israel from bondage. God took a little boy's sack lunch and **FED FIVE THOUSAND** people with God. God is a God of abundance.

(4) GOD OFTEN SAVES THE BEST FOR LAST

Another marriage feast has been set on God's calender. It is called **THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB**. With that feast in mind, it is safe to conclude, **"WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET."** The best is yet to come.

- **(Psa 16:11)**, “. . . In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

- **(1 Cor 2:9)**, “. . . Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

(5) **"WHATEVER JESUS TELLS YOU TO DO, DO IT"**

WHAT IS HE TELLING YOU TO DO?

- Be **SAVED?**
- Be **BAPTIZED?**
- Get involved in **MINISTRY?**
- **CARRY YOUR CROSS** (Luke 9:23)

(6) **DON'T BE A RECLUSE**

GO WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE SO THAT YOU CAN SHARE THE GOSPEL

- **(Acts 1:8)**, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”
- **(Mark 16:15)**, “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”