

**Everyday Life Bible Study Podcast**  
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**Episode 3 - Jesus Turns the Water into Wine**

**SHOW NOTES**

John 2:1-11 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** "Woman,[a] why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour 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.[b]

**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** What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

First of the "signs." A "sign" through which Jesus revealed his glory. A miracle with a meaning - pointing to something

John's gospel is sometimes referred to as the signs gospel. There are 7 or 8 distinct signs in John that point to Jesus as the Messiah.

John 20:30-31 - Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31** But these are written that you may believe[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The 1st of such signs is the miracle of turning water to wine. If the point was to prove he was the Messiah, then v11 makes sense—“...through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.” Or revealed his gloriousness. Who he was. Question: How does this odd miracle do that?

It IS a rather odd miracle, isn't it? Not a necessity at all. Didn't change anyone's life for good. Other miracles have to do with healing people or feeding people. This is more like helping out a friend. He really did help this guy out though

Unlike today, the groom was responsible for all of the wedding expenses, including providing enough wine for the celebration which would go on for 3-7 days. So he had to provide more than enough. Either they didn't have much to start with, or this was a party crowd. Running out of wine for whatever reason was a major party faux pas! It was embarrassing. More than that, the host could even be fined! In that culture, it meant social disgrace.

So Mary, Jesus' mom, informed Jesus that they had run out of wine. She may have been there in some kind of official capacity to be concerned about it. Or maybe she was just making a comment about this embarrassing situation. Not sure what she was expecting though. But as you read further it seems she expected him to do SOMETHING.

So she turns to the servants and says, "Do whatever he tells you." Why would she make a statement like that? I think this is a total mom statement. Like some moms try to play matchmaker w/ their kids. "You know, you both are single."

And mom is hatching a plan to get the two of them together. Starts with a passive suggestion by way of a comment - "You know, they ran out of wine." She's devising a plan to make sure everybody else knows her boy is something special. Of course that's just my imagination

But Luke 2:19 - **Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.**

This is after the time they found the boy Jesus in the Temple. NLT - She thought about them often. Greek - to ponder, consider, confer, discuss. So I think it's accurate to say that she did think about Jesus as the Son of God a lot

Interesting that the word used for "things" is plural. Our English translations use plural, but the Greek is also plural. This stuff makes my imagination run wild. What other things did Mary ponder and think about often? I wonder what might have happened as Jesus was growing up?

Did he perform little miracles around the house? Heal his siblings' owies? Multiply some bread from time to time? Because a couple weeks ago we learned that Mary and Joseph were not well to do. It's fascinating to think about, isn't it?

So Mary tells him, "They're out of wine." Jesus responds, "Woman, why do you involve me?" In our culture, this sounds a little rude. Is that any way to address your mother? The original word is actually a respectful term for addressing a married woman.

Basically, Jesus is saying, "This isn't my problem." Greek - "what is that to you and me?" "My hour has not yet come." Indicating that he is going to do something, but not yet. There are 6 times in John's gospel where this idea of "the hour" is mentioned.

This time when he was talking to Mary. Two other times when people tried to capture him but couldn't because his time had not yet come. 3 times toward the end of his life when Jesus declared that his time or hour had come. "The hour" refers to when God would glorify the Son. Although he said here that his hour had NOT yet come, we read about the miracle that occurred.

Nearby there were 6 large jars of water. He tells them to fill them up so they top them off to the brim. He doesn't say or do anything special. Just draw some out and give it to the host. When the host drank it, it was the finer than anything he had brought to the party.

Jesus performed a creative miracle here. Same kind of miracle it took to create the world. A "let there be" kind of miracle.

There are some interesting facts I want to draw out of this episode in Jesus' life. He performed this miracle through people. Didn't make a show of it but kept it low key. Didn't wave his hands over the jars. Didn't call out loudly to the Father.

But he did work this miracle through people. The only ones who knew about it were the servants. Because they were instrumental in this miracle. Jesus didn't even say, "Let there be wine." People did the work. That's how God works in our lives sometimes.

We pray for a miracle but wait for lightning to strike. Some of the greatest miracles in our lives are in partnership with God. Wouldn't happen without OUR involvement. When the nation of Israel escaped from Egypt, the Red Sea didn't part for them until they stepped in and got their feet wet. God says, "You step into the Jordan and THEN I'll part the water"

You step out in faith, THEN I'll direct your path. What if the nation of Israel waited on the shore for the Red Sea to part? They would have been overtaken by their enemies.

We think of a miracle as that which God and God alone does. True that only HE is capable. But unless we put the cup in and draw out the water, it won't happen. He can make the wine, but he won't make you drink it.

What must it have been like for those servants? Jesus said, "draw out the water and take it to the guy in charge." Did they feel silly dipping the cup into the jar of water? But the awkwardness turned to amazement as soon as they brought it out.

This bears a lot of similarities to when Jesus fed the 5000. Didn't wave his hand over the loaves and fish. Didn't spit on the ground, make mud and fashion it into a loaf of bread. Just said, "Divvy up the bread and fish amongst the people" He used people in performing the miracle. Jesus didn't touch the water or the pots. But made wine that was finer than anything they had yet tasted.

When I was in college, I had a professor named Dr. Wave Nunally. Dr Nunally earned a PhD from Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. I remember him saying that Cana was known for it's fine wine. According to Dr. Nunnally,, Jewish legend said the Messiah would make better wine than the wine of Cana. A sign that pointed to his glory; to Jesus as the Messiah. He created fine, aged wine - Not the cheap stuff.

They would get drunk on the good stuff. Then the host would bring out the cheap stuff after the guests couldn't tell or care about the difference. I'm sure it was a daily cycle. When Jesus made his wine, it was better than what they started out with

It says there were 6 jars that can contain 20-30 gallons of water each. 6 jars at 20-30 gallons = 120-180 gallons. Jesus turned all that into fine wine.

By today's standard, there's about 5 bottles of wine in a gallon. A regular bottle of wine is 750ml. That means Jesus made between 600-900 bottles of wine. Do you realize how many grapes that is?

It takes 5 lbs of grapes to make 2 bottles of wine. That's 1500-2250 pounds of grapes. Not only did he create the finest wine, but he did it in abundance. More than you'd think a wedding party could (or should) consume. 2 Cor 9:8 - God is able to bless you abundantly

When God comes through for you, we're not talking about a half a bottle of watered down cheap stuff. We're talking about more than you can handle. We're talking about the good stuff!

These jars that he used were for ceremonial washing. It was (and still is) very important to go through the motions of ritual hand-washing before a meal where bread is served. Or after going to the bathroom. Most likely there was water already in them. The command to "fill them" was probably more like "top off those water jars."

Ritual washing of hands has nothing to do with hygiene. In fact, you're supposed to make sure your hands are clean before the ritual. This is practiced by pouring a cup of water twice over the right hand, then twice over the left hand. Not a physical cleansing exercise. But holiness before God required it.

Was it significant that Jesus chose THESE vessels in this miracle? Maybe it was that they were simply close by. Maybe it made sense b/c he knew the water was already clean, But, after the miracle, it's important to note that they had no water for this important ritual.

I think Jesus was making a statement about this external ceremony of hand washing. It can never make someone right and holy before God. Jesus knew it was a pointless exercise. He changed it to very fine wine.

At the last supper with his disciples, Jesus raised up a cup of wine. He said it was a metaphor for his blood which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Only THAT can make a person right and holy before God.

John said this was the "first of the signs" through which Jesus revealed his glory. But this was a private sign. Only the servants and Mary knew about it. I guess his time had not yet come yet

Truly this WAS a sign pointing to Jesus as the Messiah. The one who would make us right and holy before God. Ceremonial cleansing and traditions couldn't do it. This miracle pointed to the Cross. That's why I believe that Jesus knew who he was and what he was to do all along

There are some who teach that Jesus realized his identity as he went along. No, HE KNEW. His disciples were the ones who realized who he was as they went along. We will learn more about THAT in times to come.