

#### INTRODUCTION

- He creates wine out of nothing.
- This is evidence that He is divine.

A. **The Situation:** Jesus, His mother, and His disciples attend a wedding in Cana of Galilee (2:1-2).

<sup>1</sup>Three days later Mary, the mother of Jesus, was at a wedding feast in the village of Cana in Galilee. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited and were there.

- Mary and Jesus knew the family. Joseph may have been dead by this time
- John never uses Mary's name, but refers to her as "the mother of Jesus."
- The disciples at this point would probably be just the five men mentioned in chapter 1
- Jewish weddings had three stages. First was betrothal - a year before the wedding celebration.
- The second phase was the procession - the groom would go to the bride's house
- The third stage - was the wedding feast, which could last for as long as a week.
- To interpret the miracle properly, we need to understand that in their culture
- The Jews viewed wine and weddings as times of joy and celebration
- This does not indicate drunkenness, which was strongly condemned.
- The wine was usually diluted with one part of wine to three parts of water.
- It was not as strong as our wine or beer are today.

B. **The Sign:** Jesus met the couple's need by turning the water into wine (2:3-10).

A. THE COUNSEL OF MARY TO JESUS: DO SOMETHING TO FIX THIS SITUATION (2:3-5).

<sup>3</sup>When the wine was all gone, Mary said to Jesus, "They don't have any more wine." <sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, "Mother, my time hasn't yet come: You must not tell me what to do." <sup>5</sup>Mary then said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do."

- To run out of wine at a wedding was a major social blunder
- Very embarrassing in a shame-based culture
- Mary may have had something to do with catering the food and drink.
- Mary knew that the angel had spoken to her about Jesus' birth, announcing that He would be the Son of the Most High and would reign on the throne of David forever (Luke 1:32-33).
- She knew that she had conceived Him while she was still a virgin.
- She remembered the prophecies of Simeon and Anna over the baby Jesus (Luke 2:28-38).
- She treasured in her heart the incident with Jesus in the temple when he was twelve (Luke 2:41-51).
- She is suggesting to Jesus that He do something to demonstrate that He was the Messiah.
- He denies Mary's request, but then fulfills it on His own terms. He made the point.
- Mary must have taken some hope from His answer, because she tells the servants (2:5), "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do."

B. THE COMMANDS OF JESUS: FILL THE JARS WITH WATER, GIVE SOME TO THE CHIEF WAITER (2:6-8).

<sup>6</sup>At the feast there were six stone water jars that were used by the people for washing themselves in the way that their religion said they must. Each jar held about twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus told the servants to fill them to the top with water. Then after the jars had been filled, <sup>8</sup>he said, "Now take some water and give it to the man in charge of the feast."

- The six stone waterpots would have held between 120-180 gallons.
- John notes that the servants filled the jars to the top, so there would be no room for wine to be added.
- We're not told how Jesus did the miracle. Jesus didn't even touch the waterpots or pray.

- He simply told the servants to draw some water out of the pots and take it to the headwaiter.
- Was it real wine? In a word, yes. The word used means wine.
- The Bible strongly condemns drunkenness (Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35; Hab. 2:15; Luke 21:34; Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:18).
- This not endorsing drunkenness, but is simply stating the common practice.
- He wanted this young couple and their guests to enjoy the wedding festivities.
- He wants us to enjoy the blessings of salvation.

C. THE COMMENTS OF THE HEADWAITER: "YOU HAVE KEPT THE BEST UNTIL LAST" (2:9-10).

*The servants did as Jesus told them,<sup>9</sup> and the man in charge drank some of the water that had now turned into wine. He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants did. He called the bridegroom over<sup>10</sup> and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then after the guests have had plenty, the other wine is served. But you have kept the best until last!"*

- The headwaiter attests to its superb quality.
- It was better than the good wine that the host had served earlier in the wedding feast.
- The world always gives its best things first and saves its worst things for last.
- Sin draws you in by its instant gratification, but it hides the painful long term consequences.
- We may have to suffer hardship and trials in this life, but He saves the best for last.

C. **The Significance:** This miraculous sign points to Jesus' glory as the Christ, the Son of God. (v. 11)

<sup>11</sup>*This was Jesus' first miracle, and he did it in the village of Cana in Galilee. There Jesus showed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*

- Remember John's purpose for writing these "signs" (20:31): *"But these are written so that you will put your faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. If you have faith in him, you will have true life."*
- The result of this miracle is that His disciples believed in Him.
- You believe in Christ at the moment of salvation, but you go on believing more and more as you see more of who He is.

CONCLUSION

- Wine in the Bible is a symbol of God's blessings (Judges 9:13, Psalm 104:5), faith (old wine/new wine), transformation (grape to juice).
- Just as He transformed the water into wine He also can change sinners into saints.
- He transforms the deadness of religious ritualism into the new wine of a relationship with Him.
- "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).
- Jesus has the power to change your heart!
- He wants to change the water of dead religion into the joyous, abundant wine of His kingdom rule.