

12 Water to Wine - 1st Glory Revealed John 2:1-12 (ESV)

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

Last time in our study of John we saw Jesus present himself as the fulfillment of Jacob's ladder. Through him the angels come and go and through Him the kingdom of God breaks into the earth.

This week we will read about the revealing of the glory of Jesus Christ the Son of God. This reveal of glory is the proof that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and The Son of God. He must be obeyed, worshipped and followed. His miracles confirm that His words are true.

READING THE TEXT

John 2:1-12 (ESV)

¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone

serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 This, **the first of his signs**, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and **manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.**

12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

PREACHING THE TEXT

John 2:1-12 (ESV)

¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,

THE THIRD DAY

Our countdown of days has concluded; the day of the big reveal has arrived. At a festive wedding Jesus will reveal His glory to His disciples. And on the wedding feast of the Lamb when Jesus returns on the clouds we will also see His glory as he returns for us, His bride.

HEBREW WEDDINGS

Weddings were held on Wednesday for virgins and Thursdays for widows who were getting remarried. This wedding was the Wednesday Wedding of a virgin bride. The virgin bride wedding lasted three days which would place the miracle of turning water into wine on the sabbath. There is a great deal of symbolism in this sabbath miracle.

verse 1 continued and the mother of Jesus was there.

THE MOTHER OF JESUS

The context reveals Mary was related to either the bride or groom. Mary did not originate from an upper class family. So it is likely this family

put a great percentage of their savings and resources into this wedding feast.

² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

Jesus was related to wedding party so He came with His disciples. This wedding is a teaching moment for His disciples.

TRAINING IN CONTEXT

Today many people go off to seminary to train for church leadership. Jesus taught his disciples theology in the context of everyday life. The church is responsible for making disciples. We can invite those we disciple into our everyday life teaching them along the way.

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

Jesus and his disciples were more mouths to feed. But ordinary families make room for more guests. The consequences of good hospitality is that extra guests eat a lot of food and drink a lot of beverages.

WEDDING NIGHTMARE

One of the worst things that could happen at a wedding is to run out of food or wine. That is not what you want people to remember about your wedding. But that is exactly what the relatives of Mary were facing.

³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴ And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”

THEY HAVE NO WINE!

Mary seems to pressure Jesus in an effort to get Him to scramble. She may have been asking for His help in order to calm everyone down. But wedding guests were known to make a public scene at weddings if food or wine ran out. In fact the groom's family could sue if the food or beverage ran dry during a wedding.

In this passage Jesus corrects His mother. She was off base with the way she was pressuring Jesus. Perhaps it was in her tone.

WOMAN, IT'S NOT MY TIME

In modern slang Jesus said something like this to Mary; *“take it easy lady, don’t pressure me to do something I’m not ready to do.”* Jesus gives Mary a word of correction telling her that if she demanded a public miracle it was not His time and He was not following her timetable.

She did not have the authority to rush Him or move up the timeline to the display of His glory. The timetable of revealing His glory is between the Father and Son of God.

Jesus corrected Mary about pressuring Him. But He still cares about sparing His relatives the embarrassment of running out of wine at the wedding. Mary then takes a more humble tone;

⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

She takes a non directive tone believing Jesus will do what is best. He is aware of the urgent need and she decides to trust his love and concern for the wedding party. After all, these are His relatives too. She

places the situation into His hands. This is a trusting approach that sets the tone for Jesus to work.

DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU

Mary's directive to the servants is my advice to every single person in the church. **Do whatever He tells you.** That makes me think of the Lord's prayer that begins with the desire to bring glory to God's name. **Hallowed be thy name.** Our primary purpose is to glorify God or Hallow His Name.

The Lord's prayer continues by stating a desire to see the kingdom of God advance as He is obeyed. **Thy Kingdom Come.** In other words, may your reign and dominion expand everywhere.

The Lord's prayer continues by stating; **Thy will be done...** Thy will be done....in other words...**do whatever He tells you.**

Thy Kingdom come and Thy will be done. That pretty much summarizes the Christian life. We were born and saved to advance His kingdom and glory. And advancing His kingdom and glory occurs when we say; **"Thy Will Be Done"**..and we do whatever he tells us.

So God works in the heart of Mary, and she repents of pressuring Jesus to do her will in her timing. She then says; "do whatever He tells you." And in that humble posture Jesus goes to work.

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

JEWISH PURIFICATION

The jars of water were kept in a prominent place. They held water for guests to ritually wash their hands before eating. In the Old Testament Temple priests were to ritually wash their hands before handing the temple offerings and temple food.

But some smart religious person thought he would add more rules to the bible. So he made up a rule that every single Jew had to ritually wash their hands before eating. If God liked handwashing among priests then let's have everybody do a hand washing ceremony.

Ritual washing had become a way to impress other people by using huge doses of water on their hands several times a day. Do you believe God was impressed with OCD hand washing? When you deviate from God's plan people lose the heart of the rule God originally gave.

These jars represent the law whose focus had to do with the outside of people and was unable to transform hearts and give people faith. So Jesus uses the same jars that were used to heap unbiblical rules on people to announce the arrival of a new kingdom with emphasis on love rather than invented rules.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.

At the command of Jesus the servants obey. The waterpots are filled with water "up to the brim."

According to Richardson; There is a completeness in this simple act with room for nothing else, no cheating or magic. Then out of that provision Jesus asks them to “draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.” It is like taking water from a well, as in the Samaritan woman’s discussion later about living water (John 4:11–15).

⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew),

The “master,” is the master of ceremonies in charge of seating and other arrangements. He has certainly been wondering and worrying about the “wine situation.” But Jesus acted first.

THE QUIET MIRACLE

Think about how quietly this miracle occurred. When we observe a miracle we usually get up in front of the whole church and tell everyone that God has done a miracle. But Jesus said His time had not yet come. His time had not come to publicly show His power to the whole world. Instead He wants to **show His power only to His disciples** so that they can see the glory of The Son of God that they might believe in Him. You don’t plant a church or grow a church or minister to the poor until you have disciples trained.

The Master of Ceremonies and Groom have no idea where the wine came from or in whose company they sat. So also; all through the Gospel

there are those who are in darkness, they do not know that this Jesus in whose company they sit offers living water.

Those who are humble, oppressed or needing healing or deliverance often discover the Son's identity. They discover the source of living water. They are not too proud to admit their failure and need for a Savior.

THE WINE IS POURED

So the wine is poured out, and everyone marvels. They have never tasted wine like this before! This is symbolic of Jesus removing religious rituals from His people that do nothing to bring life.

The wine represents the life giving power of the Spirit flowing into each person's heart who believes Jesus Christ for salvation. The wine represents gladness of heart and the new life. Compare drinking wine or even Gatorade on a hot day with washing your hands. Washing your hands with water does nothing to your insides and nothing to quench your thirst. Jesus is The Living Water who quenches our spiritual thirst.

⁹ continued **the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."**

The normal practice was to impress guests with a few bottles of high quality wine. Then after each person got a taste of the good stuff they would move to ordinary table wine that was less expensive. (kind of like the cheap wine that is sold in a box).

SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

The most important lesson is that **the old wine of the law came first**. The law was not the good stuff. It did not really satisfy our hunger for God. **The new and better wine of God's kingdom has come** for those who have been given the faith to believe Jesus Christ for salvation. If you want to be full of The Spirit drink Jesus. Partake of the living water. He doesn't care about the outer appearance. He wants to put life inside of you through His living water. If you are born again don't go back to the law. Don't try to impress God and others with religious rituals. Get life and share it with others. The old has gone and the new has come in Jesus Christ.

¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

According to **D.A. Carson** *Jesus' public ministry extends from **John 2: 1 to 12: 50**. These eleven chapters are often called the "Book of Signs" because in this section of John, Jesus reveals His glory as The Only Son of The Living God.*

HIS DISCIPLES BELIEVED

The result of this miracle is that His disciples believe. No one seeks God and no one can find God. God finds us. God seeks us. And when God gets our attention He convinces us that Jesus is the Son of God and He has died for our sins and rose from the dead.

Jesus performed miracles in front of His disciples and unveils their eyes so that they can believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, Christ and Messiah.

He caused them to believe so that could be saved in Jesus name. He caused them to believe by revealing His glory to them. It still works that way. When Jesus reveals His glory to your mind and heart through the Holy Spirit you will be saved. You will cry out to Him for salvation.

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

MOTHER AND BROTHERS AND DISCIPLES

Jesus went with His mother and brothers along with His disciples. So I'm sure Jesus spent time with His disciples debriefing them of the significance of turning the water into wine. He did this miracle primarily for them. He did not want anyone else to see His glory. His disciples were the first priority. Later He would perform public miracles in front of a mixed audience of those who would believe and some who would reject Him.

Jesus had brothers. One of them is James who was probably at the wedding. The brothers of Jesus did not believe until later, perhaps not until after the resurrection. We are called to share the faith with those who God puts in our path. But the results are God's. It is not you that win others to Christ. It is Jesus who is winning people through you. Even Jesus did not win His own brothers to salvation until they were given the faith to believe.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is your honest and consistent heart posture to "do whatever He says?"
2. Is your highest priority the glory of God through Jesus Christ?

3. Like the Old Testament Priests, have you added requirements to yourself and others that are not in the scriptures?
4. Have you tasted the wine of the kingdom of Jesus Christ? Are you forgiven, saved and transformed?