

## John 2:1-11, "Jesus' First Miracle"

- ↪ Circumstances: "The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration." **John 2:1-2.**
- ✓ Jewish weddings lasted a week.
  - ✓ The first 2 miracles in Jesus' ministry happened in Cana. **John 4:46-54**
  - ✓ It was a 3 day journey from Jordan, Nathaniel's hometown.
  - ✓ Several sites for Cana have been discovered, ranging from 4 to 18 miles north of Nazareth.
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- ↪ Problem: "The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."" **John 2:3.**
- ✓ It was embarrassing to run out of food or beverages during the wedding feast. Provisions were a societal expectation at these weddings. Some had, no doubt, journeyed a long way to attend this wedding. A loss of honor would ensue; invitations were a guarantee that the invitee would be taken care of. It is hard to imagine, but they actually could be fined for such a thing! Sued! There could be both a financial and a social cost.
  - ✓ Mary, who was in a position, of leadership told Jesus that they were out of wine. Any Ideas? Have you ever watched our ladies in the kitchen at an event? Surely Mary had exhausted the traditional backup plans of her day, which may have included watering the wine down or carefully rationing it. This is a worst-case scenario.
  - ✓ Today's backup plans may include searching door-to-door, a type of door dash. They could have Googled KFC, Pizza Hut, or Whataburger. But those are our backup plans. Order more than you need and return it. This would not work in these times! There were no credit cards or ATM machines, no Blue Marlin, Walmart, or HEB's. There were no big box-stores to rely on.
  - ✓ We don't assume to know Mary's motive, but as a probable widow, Mary's status would be boosted by her biological family finding a solution to their problem. Her carpenter son is leaving the home, and provisions will need to be made for the future. Mary's status boost could affect her future stability.
  - ✓ Rejection of the Idea: "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." **John 2:4.** This verse contains a question of involvement & Messianic timing.
  - ✓ Jesus' Involvement "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus distances himself from Mary. He addresses her, not as mother but as He would any other woman. There was no "mom card" here, just Ma'am.
  - ✓ There seems to be more to the conversation than what is listed. His answer suggests there is more to the question than just wine. Whatever was said, Jesus was not interested in boosting anyone's status but in building the spiritual family.
  - ✓ That's not our problem; a form of rebuke. He says no to a part of the request that we are not privy to. This is not public Messianic business.
  - ✓ The clause, "Why do you involve Me?" was a common expression in Greek that referred to a difference in realms or relations. Demons spoke these words when they were confronted by Christ, "What do You want with us?" **Mark 1:24**; "What do You want with me?" **Mark 5:7**. Mary had to learn a painful lesson, **Luke 2:35**, namely, that Jesus was committed to God the Father's will and that the time for His manifestation was in the Father's hand.
  - ✓ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God!", **Mark 1:24**.
  - ✓ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!", **Mark 5:7**.
  - ✓ The Greek text literally reads, "What to me and to you, woman?" Jesus is not saying, not my monkeys, not my circus, but "Why this conversation?" Why do you involve me in this matter? You know I will obey and follow the Father's plan! We can take everything to Jesus, but we must trust His plan and timing.
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↪ QUESTION: Do you ever push or pressure? Hurry up, God!

- ✓ "My time has not yet come." **John 2:4**, my hour, my heavenly timetable. My hour: He clearly does not say "no" to her and then "yes" 61 minutes later. Jesus says "no" to whatever way Mary suggests to deal with this problem. Jesus respectfully rejects her interference and explains "WHY." My time has not yet come, or similar words occur five times in **John 2:4; John 7:6, 8, 30; and John 8:20**. Later the fact that His time had come is mentioned three times in **John 12:23; John 13:1; and John 17:1**. Jesus is not concerned about saving face at the expense of following God's timing.
- ✓ Mary takes some initiative to come to Jesus, but there would be no "Messianic reveal". She HAD been waiting for it for 30 years! That should be patient enough; let's get on with it, but there would be no such remedy or distraction from the problem at hand. It would have been easy for Jesus to make a spectacle of this event. Have everyone get a glass of water, taste it, say a prayer, touch each glass, and wave His hand. That was not the purpose of this "sign" in the book of John.
- ✓ We, like Mary should have confidence in Jesus' ability but recognize that it is Jesus who sets agenda .

↪ God's timing is important; "but when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law." **Galatians 4:4**. "He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area, near the place where the offerings were put. Yet, no one seized him because his time had not come." **John 8:20**. "Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Wait on the Lord. Bring your requests to him. Pushing won't help." **John 12:23**.

↪ Submission

- ✓ "His mother said to the servants," "Do whatever He tells you." **John 12:5**.
- ✓ Great advice: read your Bible that way, pray that way, budget your time that way, manage your money that way, choose your thoughts that way, and decide where you go in that same way.
- ✓ Mary seems hopeful, if not expectant, that Jesus will come through for her. Mary had not yet seen any miracles up to this point, as this would be the first. This Bible passage, therefore, nixes any of the other extra-biblical accounts that have Jesus performing miracles as a boy.
- ✓ Mary had faith in Jesus' miraculous and amazing abilities; now she exhibits faith in His plan. Jesus, in our story, has been found as a guest, a Son, and is now a supervisor over the servants. Miracle worker is next.
- ✓ Mary's response to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you," reveals her submission to her Son. Even though she did not fully understand, she trusted Him. Mary did not point to herself but to Jesus. She did all that she knew to do, then took it up the chain of command!

↪ Solution: the ceremonial jars must have symbolic meaning.

- ✓ "Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, 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 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." This was the first of his miraculous signs, which Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him." **John 2:6-11**.
- ✓ Ceremonial jars had a specific use; they were not for drinking but for Jewish purification rites before and after meals.
- ✓ The master of the banquet, in charge of the festivities, would not know he was drinking from the purification jars. This would be unthinkable for a Jew.
  - 6 jars x 20 (30) gallons = at least 120 gallons of superior wine; 1 gallon weighs 8.33 lbs.
  - Each jar would weigh between 170 and 250 pounds minimum. This would be over 2,400 servings.
  - Goodness in taste: water one second, wine the next.
  - A molecular miracle, the change happened somewhere between filling the jars and the tasting of the wine.
  - The servants did what Mary and Jesus told them to do. Great faith or fear of retribution?

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- ✓ Imagine yourself as the servant. Your boss, Mary, tells you to do what her Son, a guest, says. Then Jesus instructs something that is unthinkable in their culture. What do you do? Filling the wash jar with water is no big deal, but now you receive instructions to take some to the master, who wants more wine. Jesus time for a spectacle had not yet come. Jesus was not hands-on, there was no physical manipulation of the water, no "magic" or "ceremonial" verbiage. Behind the scenes, a miracle occurs. His time for the public display of his power had not yet come.
- ✓ There would be no "Moses' rod" action, no special lighting, or special effects. Jesus didn't fill or serve the liquid; He spoke words, His Words. They trusted His Word, and we can too.
- ✓ "Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'" They did so, 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 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." **John 2:8-10.**
- ✓ The master of the banquet did not know of the miracle yet. He brags about the product. Jesus provides the best. Jesus is our source of bounty, goodness, and even excess, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He turns normal into amazing.
- ✓ "This was the first of His miraculous signs which Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him. **John 2:11.** A private miracle for the purpose of his disciple's faith. This molecular miracle deepens their faith in Jesus.
- ✓ This miracle revealed Jesus' glory. As does EVERY miracle, especially the miracle of our salvation. Jesus gave yet another reason for the disciples to put their faith in Him.

### ☞ Water into Wine

- ✓ Old lives changed into abundant lives.
- ✓ The best wine came about when the miracle worker was in charge of the water.
- ✓ Your best hope is to place your life fully in the hands of this wonderful Messiah and miracle worker, Jesus.

### ☞ Sign vs. Miracle

- ✓ Of the four Gospel writers, only John was there. John used the word "signs" (sēmeiōn, in verse 11) because he was seeking to draw attention away from the miracles as such and to point up their significance. A miracle is also a "wonder" (teras), a "power" (dynamis), and a "strange event" (paradoxos).

### ☞ New Wine

- ✓ "No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one, after drinking old wine, wants the new, for He says, 'The old is better.'" **Luke 5:38-39**
- ✓ A promise of abundance, a move from need to abundance. It was not enough for people to believe in Jesus' works; they had to believe in Him and in the Father who sent Him. **John 5:14-24.**

### ☞ Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 291.

- ✓ The Seven Signs of John's Gospel. According to the Gospel of John, this miracle of the turning of water into wine was the first of seven signs that signified Jesus was the divine Son of God. This sign showed that Jesus was the source of life. The other six signs and their meaning are:
  - ✓ healing of a nobleman's son, emphasizing Jesus as master over distance (4:46-54)
  - ✓ healing of a paralyzed man in Jerusalem, showing Jesus as master over time (5:1-9).
  - ✓ feeding of the five thousand, demonstrating that Jesus is the bread or sustenance of life (6:5-14).
  - ✓ walking on the water, showing Jesus' mastery of nature (6:15-21).
  - ✓ healing of a man born blind, emphasizing Jesus as the light of the world (9:1-7) and the raising of Lazarus, indicating that Jesus has power over death (11:38-44).