

God With Us

A Study of John's Gospel: "The Wedding at Cana"

John 2:1-12

"This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him." (John 2:12)

I. The Wedding Feast

- a. In ancient Jewish culture, the bridegroom and his friends, carried torchlights as they made their way in procession at night to the bride's home, the wedding feast location.
- b. The feast might last an entire week (Judg. 14:12).
- c. In ancient times, when the supply of wine failed it was more than social embarrassment, the bridegroom's family could be sued for not properly providing for the event.
- d. The whole attitude of Mary, her actions when the wine ran out, support the idea that her family was friends of the wedding party. The old wine ran out, but not the new wine.
- e. *Do whatever He tells you.* Mary knew her Son's character and He was different from others.
 1. We are unsure if Jesus performed other divine acts as child.
- f. The term, "Woman," is not disrespectful in the Greek as in English, it was "a term of respect or affection." Jesus also used it as He hung on the cross (John 19:26).

II. I. The First Sign, Water into Wine

- a. Stone jars were more waterproof than earthenware and were less likely to contract uncleanness (Leviticus 11:29–38). (six jars holding 20-30 gallons of water)
- b. Jewish law required hands and vessels to be ceremonially washed before meals.
- c. Jesus Christ began his ministry, not with a miracle of vengeance, like Moses, who turned water into blood, but with a miracle of lavishness, turning water into wine.
- d. Jesus does not have the water pots emptied and then filled, but He goes as far with nature as nature will go. He used what was there.
- e. Jesus supplied what was necessary, but also gave an abundance, and this is done by His grace.
- f. This miracle indicates that there is a transforming power associated with Jesus.
- g. The *new wine* of the kingdom brought by Jesus contrasts with the old wine of Judaism. *Jesus changes the water of Judaism into the wine of Christianity.*

III. Personal Application of His Word

- a. What can we learn and personally apply from this miracle performed by Jesus?
- b. When God blesses His people it is by issuing a command to them. Faith is attached to blessings.
 1. Fill the water pots with water." "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash (John 9:7)." "Lazarus, come forth (John 11:43)." Following the command is not always easy. (167-250 lbs water weight)
 2. What does Christ say to the sinner? "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."
- c. Christ's commands are not to be questioned, but to be obeyed. At times Christ's commands do not seem logical to the natural mind. We are simply told to believe.
- d. Whatever Christ commands it is always wise to carry it out with passionately. He said, "Fill the water pots with water," and they filled them up to the brim. Be immediate and complete, no half-stepping.
- e. Use what you have. The simplest/most common gifts can be used to serve Christ's purpose.
- f. Our service is the water. While we are serving, filled with the Holy Spirit, God will bless it, and turn the water into wine. Let us trust in His Word.