

MIRACLES | Water into Wine

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Introduction

This is our final week in our *Miracles* series... and **Today** we're going to be talking about the very first recorded miracle that Jesus performed.

John 2:1-11

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.

This is Jesus' introductory miracle. In fact, it's not just a miracle. Many times the scriptures refer to each miracle as what? — a...

SIGN

John refers to the miracles he records — not necessarily as miracles — but as a sign — a symbol of something deeper, a pointer to something bigger, something greater, something beyond the event itself.

John 2:11

the first of His signs

All the miracles that Jesus performed seem to be far more significant and meaningful than this one — calming storms, walking on water, raising someone from the dead, healing the sick, casting out demons. Changing the molecular structure of a beverage just doesn't seem like that big of a deal!

Why in the world would Jesus choose THIS as His very First Miracle?

WHO JESUS IS
WHAT JESUS DOES
WHAT WE MUST DO

Who Jesus Is

In today's "Post-Christian" culture, people still adhere to some of the values of a Christian culture while simultaneously rejecting the *source* of those values — the Bible. Why is it that way? It's essentially some version of, "I grew up in Church, and now I don't want to have to submit my life to anyone or anything —

I just want to do what I want to do!” There is this idea that Christianity is all about religious adherence — suffocating, restrictive, and boring!

But what does Jesus’ first miracle tell you? *You’ve rejected a cultural idea of Christianity that isn’t even close to who Jesus actually reveals Himself to be.*

John 2:8

And He said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the **master of the feast.**”

The master of the feast was the person who presided over the entire wedding banquet. *So why would Jesus choose for His first miracle, the one where he creates 150 gallons of the best wine to take a dining party and lift it to new heights?*

Isaiah 25:6-8

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷ And He will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

You know what Jesus is saying here? By this being His very First Miracle He’s saying... *“Of all the things I’ve come to do... my suffering, my sacrifice, my rejection and torture, the healing, and deliverance I bring... of all the things I want you to know about Me — this is the very first one — **I’m the true master of the feast and I’ve come to bring you into jubilee, celebration joy! I’m come to invite you into the ceremony of ceremonies, the celebration of celebrations!**”*

*A secret Master of the Ceremonies has been at work... At this feast it is
He who has spread the board and it is He who has chosen the guests.
It is He, we may dare to hope, who sometimes does, and always should, preside.¹
~ C. S. Lewis*

What Jesus Does

John 2:3

When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”

Mary didn’t go to the wedding planner, the master of the feast, to the couple getting married —she went to Jesus. **Mary didn’t know what to do, but she knew Who to go to.**

***Maybe you’re in a situation where you don’t know what to do
— but do you know Who to go to?***

- Maybe you are frantically trying to figure out what to do, but you’ve forgotten the One that you need to go to.
- **Because you’ve been going to wrong source, you’ve run out of resources.**
- **Because you’ve been drinking from the wrong well — now you’re running on empty!**
And you’re trying to figure out who to blame!

¹ Lewis, C.S. *Complete Works of C.S. Lewis* (Strelbytskyy Multimedia Publishing, Feb 1, 2021)

- You've run out of Joy! You've run out of Hope! You've run of grace! Of Love. Of Patience. Of Prudence. Or Wisdom. Of Understanding.
- **You've run out of the RESOURCES that you need — because you've stopped going to the SOURCE of ALL you need.**

John 2:3

When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

John 2:4

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

When I first read this over the years, I read it like Jesus is saying, "*You're forcing my hand. I'm not ready to do a miracle yet.*" Because he immediately turns around and does a miracle. *But that's not what's happening here...*

So what IS happening?

Every time the word "Hour" is used either referring to, or by Jesus, it's talking about a very specific moment in His life.

John 7:30

So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His **hour** had not yet come.

John 8:20

...but no one arrested Him, because His **hour** had not yet come.

John 12:23

And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His **hour** had come to depart out of this world...

Every reference to the "Hour" is a reference to the hour of His death. And when Jesus responds to Mary, He isn't talking about what it will take to provide wine at that wedding ceremony, *Jesus is referencing the price that He'll have to pay to provide the wine at His own wedding ceremony! **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.***

At the Last Supper, Jesus says, "*This cup of wine, is*" what? "*Is my blood.*" This is the price I have to pay for my wedding ceremony. In the Old Testament, God, through Moses, turned water into blood as a curse. But in the New Testament, when Jesus talks about wine, it's not about wine — it's about His blood — it's a blessing.

**Jesus drank the curse that we deserved,
so we could drink from the blessing He deserved.**

This is why Jesus is saying, "Woman! My hour has not yet come!" — and then two minutes later turns around and turns the water in wine.

What We Must Do

Mary's response:

John 2:4-5

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.”

She goes to the servants and says, “The Master of the Feast ran out of wine.”

- I don't know HOW my Son is going to solve this problem, but I know THAT He's going to solve this problem.
- I don't know WHAT He's going to tell you to do, but whatever it is, just do it.

Application: *For some of us, we think, “If I just knew what He was telling me to do. If I just had more information. If I just knew more about the Bible. If I just had a deeper connection. If I just had... [fill in the blank] then I would know what to do. Then I would do what He is telling me to do...”*

**But the majority of the time,
it's not that you need more knowledge.
It's that you need to do something
with the knowledge you already have.**

James 1:22

But be **doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 2:14, 26

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

John 14:15

if you love me, **obey my commands**.

All this is telling us that **what we need is**
not more knowledge,
not just hearing the word
not just reading the word
not even believing the word
it's not enough
we need to DO something with what we ALREADY KNOW

But there's something else that we need to see...

You have to admit that you're out...

They were completely out of wine... they had nothing. No resources... Nothing left. No solution at all... Jesus doesn't lift a finger until Mary comes and says, “They're empty. They've got nothing to offer.”

And in the same way, Jesus will not make a move in your life unless you're willing to say, “God, I am out. I'm empty. I've got no resources. I don't have any solutions. I've got nothing to bring to the table and I need you to intervene.”

In this entire miracle series... every story, every miracle, every time God has shown up — it's where we have reached the end of our ability to navigate a situation.

John 2:9-10

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.”

What's fascinating about this story, is that Jesus doesn't get the credit for the miracle. The bridegroom that ran out of wine is getting all the credit for the miracle that Jesus performed. He's getting all the praise that he didn't deserve — He's getting all the praise that Jesus deserved.

This is what Christianity is all about... it's coming before God and admitting that we've run out... we're bankrupt, we're empty, and saying — but God, have mercy on me, and **credit to me everything that Jesus has done for me as if I've done it myself.**

- *His perfect life in my place*
- *His sacrificial death in my place*
- *Place my emptiness, brokenness, sinfulness on Him*
- *Place His righteousness on me*
- *Credit to me, everything he deserves*

This whole story points to the ultimate wedding ceremony that is coming one day. It will be the ceremony of ceremonies, the union of unions, the wedding of weddings...

On August 21, 1887, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, Charles Spurgeon said this...

“Then it shall come to pass that Christ will celebrate this marriage supper, which will be the bringing of the people of God into the closest and happiest union with Christ their Lord in glory. Even now, the Lord Jesus Christ is no stranger to some of us, and we are not strangers to him; yet there shall come a day when we shall see him face to face, and then we shall know him with a clearer and fuller knowledge than is possible to us today. What that bliss will be, I cannot tell. Oh, the ineffable brightness when we shall see the face of Jesus! Oh, the unspeakable sweetness when we shall hear his voice! Oh, the amazing bliss when he shall manifest himself to us in all his glory! And there will come such a day for all whom he has redeemed, for all who trust him, and rest in his atoning sacrifice. That will be the marriage supper of the Lamb. That feast will be the fulfilment of long expectation.”²
~ Charles Spurgeon

***It tells us that our God is a God of infinite joy —
and the knowledge that this ceremony will come one day —
has the power to transform us into people
that are filled with an impenetrable joy —
in all that we face —
from now until that glorious day.***

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between a “miracle” and a “sign”?
2. Had you been “ignorant” of thinking that Mary had “bullied” Jesus into performing this first miracle at the wedding? How has your understanding changed?
3. Mary didn't know *what* to do — but she knew *Who* to go to. Do you have a situation like that in your life right now?
4. If you are waiting for God to “tell you what to do” — could it be that you have enough knowledge — but that you need to do something with the knowledge you already have?
5. Why is it that Jesus often does not make a move in your life until you're willing to say, “I am empty, I have no resource or solutions”?
6. Compare the bridegroom at the wedding getting credit for the miracle Jesus had done — to “credit to me everything that Jesus has done for me, as if I've done it myself.”

² Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit: Sermons, Parts 447-488* (Passmore & Alabaster, 1856) p 414

NOTES