

Water to Wine  
*The Story Of Jesus*  
By Pastor Bill Weaver

sermonaudio.com

**Bible Text:** John 2:1-11  
**Preached on:** Sunday, December 27, 2020

**Auburn Baptist Church**  
1700 Old Brick Rd.  
Auburn, IN 46706

**Website:** [www.auburnbaptist.org](http://www.auburnbaptist.org)  
**Online Sermons:** [www.sermonaudio.com/jude3](http://www.sermonaudio.com/jude3)

Those that are willing and ready and there they go. Quite a parcel of children today. It's good to see lots of kids. They're not bashful about where they're going and many of them are headed there as quickly as possible. Away they go.

We're in John 2 this morning, John's gospel, chapter 2. We'll look at the first sign that Jesus performed the miracle at the wedding of Cana. We are looking at the story of Jesus. We're covering this wonderful narrative of Jesus' life and ministry and work, and we're doing this chronologically. We're trying to take all that the gospels have to offer with regard to his life and ministry and work, and to put it in some kind of chronological order and to study the person of Jesus in that way. We want to exalt Jesus. We want to lift him up. And we want to take a close look at this Jesus, our Savior. So we'll be in John 2:1 through 12 this morning.

As I look around, it's good to see you here. Let me welcome you. My, what a good morning to worship. We have folks from Florida. We have folks from all over. Nicole's here, I know. Yeah, in the back, and we're glad she's here. Praise God. We're just delighted to be here, to be together, and God continues to lead, and he has a full meal, so to speak, before us this morning. I trust that God will speak to our hearts and we'll leave here more impressed than ever with Jesus and his work and what he desires to do in each one of our lives, that we would trust him more fully and follow him more closely in these days.

John 2:1,

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; 2 and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 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 that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." 6 Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now

and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. 9 When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, 10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. 12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.

The word of the Lord.

*So, Father in heaven, we bow in worship of You. We're so thankful for the opportunity to be here, to gather as a local church body of believers in Jesus on this day, at this time, in this place, just to worship You, to let our hearts be drawn to You, to allow our spirit, our hearts to be lifted up in You, to be encouraged, to be edified, to be strengthened in our faith today. We pray, Lord, for each one here that Your blessings would continue spiritually and otherwise to just rain down in our minds and hearts and that we would just be more captivated by You, that we would be less entangled and less mesmerized by the things going on around us in the world and more just fully caught up with You. We pray for those that are joining through the social media today, through the Facebook Live and through the SermonAudio. There are many, and we would ask the same, Your blessings be multiplied to them. We pray for the sick. We pray for the hurting. We pray for the confused. We pray for the lost of this world. We pray for their salvation. And may Your good news, Lord, continue to be communicated in this earth in a strong and a powerful, convincing, winsome way. We pray these things in Jesus' name.*

And God's people said amen and amen.

So Jesus, we've just covered a stretch of Scripture in John 1 from verses 35 and all the way through 51 where Jesus calls his early disciples. So he called Andrew, he called, we think, John, the writer of the gospel. Andrew finds his brother, Simon Peter, and then we have Philip being called. So right here in this stretch, Jesus is calling disciples. What does that tell us? Does it tell us he's calling and looking for super spiritual people to follow him? No. What it tells us is that Jesus is fulfilling his mission, which was to come from heaven to earth, to be born of a virgin, to grow up and to engage in a three-year public ministry. He came to seek and to save those who are lost. He came for man. He came reaching out. He came coming down. He came speaking. He came revealing himself, who he is, his mission, and all of that to man. And he begins to call them forth in this last part of John and the only reason I'm really talking about that this morning is that Jesus was faithful to the mission.

And these people he called, these men, are with him when he goes to Cana of Galilee and they're attending a wedding, and the fact that Jesus would be at a wedding means that he's honoring this God-ordained, God's ordained will for family, which is a man and a woman

together for life. And we want to be sure in our day and age to hold the line on God's will for the family, that it's one man, one woman, till death do they part for life. That's what it is. And Jesus is there. The Bible tells us, John tells us, that they were invited guests to this wedding in verse 2, both Jesus and his disciples. So those guys we just mentioned and anyone else that he had called along the way that were not mentioned. I don't think we said anything about Nathaniel/Bartholomew. He would have been there as well. And there they are and the third day, there's a wedding.

Now John, he doesn't just use words to use words. John is communicating to us and there's things that are important like third day. That's important. That puts us in the mind that there was something, something really miraculous is gonna take place. It's the third day and we know that Jesus rose on the third day, rose from the dead. And so we're thinking of a miracle that is as important and significant as the resurrection, something really powerful, something that speaks to the identity of Jesus.

So there's a wedding. The wedding is in Cana. We're not told who the family is. We're not told much about the wedding. The only thing we have of any detail is just that Jesus and his disciples were invited, but we're not given the whole list. We're told that it occurs in Cana. I think thus far archaeologists have not really been able to locate Cana. It was a really small town. I think if my memory serves, Nathaniel's from Cana of Galilee. And we're told that the mother of Jesus was there. Now, that's important because of what's going to transpire later in this narrative. The mother of Jesus is there, so she must have had some responsibility there. She no doubt knew the people, the family, who were involved in this wedding, and the Bible tells us that the event occurred so we have to understand this actually took place.

And no sooner than things began to unfold in the wedding ritual, then the wine ran out. Verse 3. There's a problem. Hmm. We've tried to make the point all year long and really going back further, but it seems to get a lot of the emphasis that Jesus is not averse to problems. I mean, we do the wrong thing as believers when we begin to act like unbelievers when problems occur in our lives or in our world, and we think God's a million miles away, but he's not averse. He doesn't run from or stay away because, you know, things are just too messy. He comes in. He inclines himself to man in his problem. God doesn't run away from sin because he takes care of sin. God is full of grace and mercy and somehow we have to stop thinking like problems in God and his Son and the Holy Spirit are mutually exclusive. No. God, there's no problem bigger than God, nothing too much for him, nothing too problematic for him to come in and take care of, exercising his grace and mercy, certainly, and if need be, his judgment. But our God is God. He is over it all. He's sovereign.

We see some sovereign God working in this problem. Look what happens. Verse 3. Now this is a disaster. Okay, if you're there in real time and the wine runs out and the wine ran out. So all the festivities and back then for a Jewish family, the wedding probably began on Wednesday night and went through the weekend and then the next week, the next whole week was open house. So just, I know a lot of you think, boy, it'd been nice to be a young married couple back then. You have the three days of wedding stuff, and then you

have open house, and I mean, it just gets better and better. But the wine ran out and this is an embarrassment for the family, and it would have been the family of the bridegroom. This would have been his family. He's responsible to have enough wine and it ran out just right there in the middle of everything. What do you do? You got folks in line for wine and there's not a drop left. That's a problem. That can be really embarrassing.

And so Jesus is, you know, he's doing what Jesus does. He's just there. He's available, but he's there. He's an invited guest. And I love this part, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Well, I wonder why she would say that to Jesus and not pick out maybe Philip. Well, we know what Philip normally does in a problem. He checks his wallet. Remember the feeding of the 5,000? "Oh, we don't have enough to buy bread for this bunch, and even if we had enough to buy bread, where are we going to buy it? There's no buyer. There's no whatever." Now, she tells Jesus this. Just like a mom, right? She knows there's something special about her son. She gave birth to him.

She knows, but Jesus has a wonderful reply to her. He says, "Woman, what does that have to do with us?" And there's all kinds of stuff written. You can go read it if you want about what he meant by "woman," and what he meant by "woman" because he doesn't call her mom. "Woman" here is not a hateful way to speak to her, but it is a direct way of speaking to her. It can be equivalent to lady or ma'am. He's being kind, but at the same time, just slow down, right, just hang on.

And then he says this to her. He says, "What does this have to do with us? The wines run out, basically, not my problem." But his mom knew that if anyone there could solve the problem, it would be him. And then he says, "My hour has not yet come," which means if you track that down, you could certainly go through John, get to John 7, John 8, John 12, when he uses that terminology, he's saying, like he tells his disciples and others, "My hour, My time has not yet come," it's always in reference to his death, burial, resurrection. It's just not time. And I think here it relates to that. It's that as soon as his miracles start, what happens? The opposition becomes really active and vocal against Christ.

So he says, you know, "My hour has not yet come," And then his mother very wisely, we should say, says to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." This is the best advice ever given. Whatever Jesus says, do it. That was good for the servants then, and it's good for his servants in the here and now. Whatever Christ says, do it. Whatever's in this word, New Testament emphasis, right? Follow through, do it. Whatever Christ says regarding our own spiritual health and well-being, do it. Read the gospels. Read this Jesus. He's so winsome. He's not this flavorless character. He is a compelling person and the reason that we're taking a close look at his life is that we will be impressed with him, that we'll follow him, that our trust will be in Jesus, that we'll be so won over by who he is and what he says and what he does, that we'll just become more committed to him, more worshipful of him, and in fact, we'll love him more.

So he gives this great advice. I would say that, verse 5, "Whatever He says to you, do it." The best advice ever given came from his mother, Jesus' mother, Mary. And then verse 6,

we're moving along at a pretty good clip and we're going somewhere with this, okay? We're about there. "Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each." So John draws our attention to six stone water pots and they were there, and they were there for a specific reason, and the reason is, and this sounds kind of, it's interesting, it fits hand-in-glove with who the Jews were and what their religion was all about, but they were there, they were waterpots, meant to hold water, because the Jews were really, really, really high on washing hands. Ceremonial cleansing. They wouldn't sing the Happy Birthday song while they washed, okay, they wouldn't go that far. They would just dip, and they would hold their hands up to God. "We're good. We're good."

And there these waterpots are and I do think John is communicating more to us than just there were these six stone waterpots, they were there for the Jewish custom of purification. I think he's telling us that they are empty waterpots. I think he's telling every Jew and indeed every Gentile that religion in and of itself, religion apart from a relationship with God and Jesus, will leave you high and dry, and the religion, the Jewish religion, had left the Jews high and dry, yet Jesus, we'll see, comes to fill. He comes to fulfill. He comes to complete.

And so there's these six stone waterpots, they're there. What's going to happen next? Well, Jesus responds. Okay, so Jesus speaks. Now, if you're Jesus, you want, I think in his mind, he's going to take care of the issue, right? But you don't want to be the star of the show at the wedding. You don't want to deflect the attention off of the bride and groom and onto yourself. At the end of the ceremony, he doesn't want to be the guy at the door signing autographs. So how do you get that done? Well, Jesus is Jesus, and he does all things well and he's never, I don't think, any more winsome than he is at this wedding and the power that he will display, but not display, and the work that he will do.

So he says, "Fill the waterpots with water.' So they fill them up to the brim." So they're following the advice of Jesus' mom, Mary, and they're not going to regret following her advice that whatever he says to you, do it. "Fill the waterpots with water. So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, 'Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.' So they took it to him." The headwaiter would be kind of like the Master of Ceremonies. He'd be the maitre d'. He's kind of making sure things run smoothly.

They take this to him and, "When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine," that's right there is where this sign happens. That's where the miracle takes place. Verse 9, "When the headwaiter tasted the water," he tasted the water, "which had become wine." What a wonderful way of putting it. It was water. It was water that had become wine, "and he did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom." The bridegroom needs to know about this, because the bridegroom is at the point of embarrassment. "What are we going to do?" You just don't snap your fingers and bring in enough wine to take care of the guests for the remaining part of the wedding. He's got to tell the bridegroom, and he says to the bridegroom, he said this directly to the bridegroom, and this is spoken by the headwaiter. It's not spoken by one of Jesus' disciples. It's not spoken by Christ himself.

It's spoken by the headwaiter. This is the testimony of the headwaiter concerning what had happened. He said, "Every man serves the good wine first," that's just customary you put the best out first, "and when the people have drunk freely, then," then, "he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."

What a statement and what's the bridegroom thinking? "You have kept the good wine until now." The bridegroom is thinking, "I haven't done anything but run out of wine." That's all he did.

So it's really, I love this, I just love the way John puts it, I love the way Jesus did it. And then "This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee." So this is the first miracle of significance. It's a sign. It speaks to the person of Jesus, who he is and what he does. "And he manifested His glory." Well, no kidding. He manifested his glory in a very unassuming way. And his what? "His disciples believed in Him."

So quickly, the thing that impresses me here is that Jesus, at a wedding, changed water to wine. I want you to think about that. He changed water to wine right there somewhere in the middle of verse 9. The taste of the water which had become wine and did not know where it came from. Had no idea where it came from. And Jesus, he performed this. He did this. And it's, I don't know, it's amazing to me he didn't say anything, you know, "All right, everybody, over here, we've got these six waterpots, and we're going to put water in them and at My command, they're going to become wine." He's not P. T. Barnum. He's not kidding around. He's not joking around. Not necessarily always trying to draw a crowd but he changed water to wine, fill the waterpots to the brim and then he changed the water to wine. Now listen very carefully: he did it without dirt, sunshine, or water. He did it without grapevines. He did it without grapes. He made wine without a harvest, without the crushing and the pressing of the grapes. He made wine without the process of fermentation. He made wine without clarification and aging. The bottling, I'll leave that one up to you. He bottled.

How does he do that? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God," John 1:1 and 2. "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, in Him was life, and life was the light of men." That's our Jesus. That's our Jesus. The one who changed the water into wine was in the beginning with God and apart from him, not even one thing has come into being that has come into being. He is that sovereign. He is that awesome. He is that full of power and glory.

So what is he exactly telling us by changing water into wine? Well, I think he, as we have discussed, he's telling us something about himself, who he is. He doesn't need all the things that you would think a man needs or someone needs to produce wine in its final form. Remember, they said most people will serve the good wine first, but they were telling the bridegroom, you've saved the best to last. It was undiluted. It was perfect. It was full of color and life and flavor. That's what it was. That's what Jesus does. It tells us something about who he is and tells us something about what he does. Now, what does

that mean for you and me, other than we're just in awe of Jesus and this is something that, you know, there were a lot of people not at this wedding that day but that Jesus was at where he did this miracle, but you and I through reading the Scripture and reading the account of this event, this is the record of this event, this is not a fanciful tale. This hasn't been doctored up. This is eyewitness testimony, even the headwaiter and even the bridegroom. You know, they testified to the validity of this miracle, and Jesus no doubt gleaned more disciples from this time. But what does it tell us, personally, to you and I, is, well, I just couldn't get away from this, that we're like an empty waterpot. I'm going to tell you, here's what I wanted to say: Jesus doesn't need dirt, he doesn't need sunshine, he doesn't need rain in the right combination. He doesn't need grapevines or grapes. He doesn't need what else? He doesn't need the great harvest. He doesn't need the whole process of the crushing and the pressing and the fermentation and the clarification. He doesn't need that whole aging process. He doesn't need that. But do you know what he needs? He needs an empty waterpot and we are like vessels. And so often, and I think there's something to be said here about water in the waterpots and what that looks like, but the water in the waterpots is just more reflective of religion, and when I say religion, I mean religion in and of itself apart from relationship with Jesus Christ. And I think Jesus would tell us that religion with regard to a waterpot full of water, a person who is involved or immersed in religion, in and of religion itself, in and of itself is watery.

Yeah, I think there's a lot of watery people. If you're in religion, if you're into religion and you're not into the person of Jesus, you can become pretty watery pretty fast. What's that look like? Well, I've overloaded the pancake batter a time or two with a lot of water. That's not good. Nobody likes watery pancake batter. You don't like cooking with that. What else is watery? I thought of this: a baseball game rain out. Nothing worse than that. I'll tell you a little secret just kind of break the... When I was a kid, if my game got rained out, I'm sorry, I cried and my dad would say, "You need to be a little man." And I'd say, "Dad, I'd love to be a little man out on that baseball field. I'll show you how much of a man I can be, Dad." Baseball game rain outs are watery.

Nobody likes anything watery. Even wine, it gets watery, you know, they'd serve the worst last because people have already drunk freely. The worst wine was the diluted wine. They'd just pour water in it. Nobody cares, right? But religion, apart from Jesus is watery. It's just really slippery, and it's not winsome, and it's not really flavorful at all. But what does God do? Here we are. We're waterpots. I don't know about you, there was a time when I was pretty much an empty waterpot, and I knew it. I was empty and dry and going nowhere and really serving no useful good. Just an empty waterpot. And I had been exposed to religion. I'm not going to name the various churches. "Are you equating some churches with just religion?" Yep, I am. And I knew it as a kid. We were in a church. They wouldn't open their Bibles. You'd be doing good to hear some kind of lecture right out of Better Homes and Gardens magazine. It's just religion. Just no flavor to it at all. No Jesus. And my mom and dad, they said, if you're going to go to church, you've got to at least hear the Bible. So we started looking. We didn't know where to look for a church. Went to another church. You know what it was? Nothing but pure religion. You've got to do this, and you've got to do this, and you've got to do this, and you've got to do this, and you've got to do it this way, and you've got to do it that way, and you've

got to do it this way. And so every now and then you'd hear about Jesus, but it's like Jesus was this tall, and everything you had to do was this big. Everything you had to do took on a life of its own. Jesus was about this big. He was in miniature. Nothing but religion. And you know what happened? I just remained an empty waterpot.

And then I remember, I heard an angel. Angel Martinez, he's an evangelist. I know y'all were starting to wonder. Woo! I hope he didn't turn off at the wrong time. I heard an angel. Went to a church. where they preached Jesus, and the life of Jesus, and that salvation is in a person, and you can have a relationship with God through his Son, Jesus. You know what God was doing? He's pouring water right in me. Pouring good word of God right in me. And then one day, after hearing this message of Jesus, I responded to Jesus in faith and it was at that point, it was at that moment that I was born again and that Jesus turned this empty pot full of the word into wine, and this turning the water to wine in my life, it takes Jesus a lifetime, right? You say, "Well, that's a long time. You just said Jesus did it in a blink." Your life's like a vapor. Your life's like a vapor, just like mine. All he needs is a short time to turn water into wine and one day, we'll see him as he is, and we will be like him.

Now, one more remark here. The reason that he fills our life with flavor and vitality and color and adventure is because he's giving us everything he is and we're renouncing everything we are, and we're receiving everything he is. And there's never been a person more flavorful, more colorful, more powerful, more dynamic, more vibrant than Jesus Christ the Lord. And if you don't know him today, I encourage you to simply look to Jesus and live. Trust Jesus, the one who lived. without sin, who died on the cross for your sins and my sins. He paid the price for our sin. He was that perfect sacrifice so that anyone and everyone believing in him would pass from death to life, would pass from darkness to light and life.

That's the message today. I trust that you'll take it to your heart, that you'll trust him, that you will keep religion at the arm's length, but that you'll receive the full measure of Jesus Christ and the salvation that he brings into your life. We give him praise.

Let's stand. Please turn in your hymnbooks to number 449, "Because He Lives."