

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**John 2: 1 – 11**

**‘The Miracle of Water into Wine’** *Scripture reading John 14: 1 - 7*

**Stand – Read – Pray**

In John chapter one, the Apostle John has been presenting Jesus as the Word of God, the Light of God, the Lamb of God, the Messiah, the Son of God and the King of Israel.

This was all done through the testimony of those who had come in contact with Jesus and by their testimony were telling others of who Jesus was, because of who He told them He was. Now in chapter two Jesus is going to SHOW everyone, by way of a sign, a miracle, that what He has said about Himself and the claims about Him that they are making are absolutely right, He is God in human form, and this sign will be the first of many to prove that.

Nicodemus recognized that in **John 3: 2** where he says **we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with them.**

In **Acts 2: 22** it says **Men of Israel hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you (how) by miracles, wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know...**

So we begin to see the story unfold in Verses one and two.

**Verses 1 - 2: on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.**

Remember, according to **John 21: 2** that Nathanael was from Cana of Galilee. And do you remember that Jesus had wanted to go Galilee, **John 1: 43** said, and Jesus just finished talking with Nathanael at the end of chapter one. So **on the third day** after heading toward Galilee and talking with Nathanael, Jesus arrives in Cana of Galilee, having been invited to a wedding there.

This is only about 10 miles from Nazareth, the place where Jesus grew up and where His family grew up and probably still was. The indication is that Jesus' mother, Mary, was actually helping with the wedding and that it may have been someone related to them or a family friend that had invited her and Jesus and His disciples to this wedding.

So Jesus would have arrived with **His disciples** which by now recorded is Andrew, John, Peter, Philip and Nathanael, at this **wedding**. A wedding in biblical times was a huge event and unlike our weddings today, the groom was responsible for all the expenses of the celebration.

A wedding usually consisted of a pre-arranged or agreed upon by both families coming together of this man and woman.

The prospective groom would go to the prospective brides home and negotiate the price for the bride and put down a dowry.

He would then go back to his home and prepare a place for her to come and live with him. At this point they were considered married and the man would have to actually divorce her for if she violated this, what they call betrothal period. Remember Joseph and Mary in **Matthew 1: 18 – 25**.

After an undetermined time of several months up to a year, the groom would then go back to the brides house preceded with a trumpet shout and a herald ahead of him announcing his return for her and then he would take her back to his house for the, sometimes, several day long wedding celebration.

The amazing thing about Jewish weddings of biblical times is that it parallels another more significant event and that is Christ and His love for and coming for His church.

Remember in **Ephesians 5: 32** where Paul had been talking about a husband and a wife and their marriage relationship being like that of Christ for His church and he says **this is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and His church.**

But think about this, in terms of Christ coming back for His church at the rapture.

He left His home (in heaven) **Philippians 2: 6 – 8** say, to meet His future bride (on earth)

He negotiated the purchase price for her, **Acts 20: 28** says, and it was His own death and shedding of His blood

After negotiating the price, at His death, He rose from the grave and He returned to His Father's house where, **John 14: 2 – 3** He is preparing a place for His bride

After an undetermined time Jesus will come back, as **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 16** says **with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God** and as **Verse 17** says and as **John 14: 3** says, we will go with Him back to His house, in heaven, that He has prepared for us.

There, as **Revelation 19: 17** says, we will enjoy **the marriage supper of the Lamb.**

Well, Jesus and His disciples, Verse 2 says were invited to the wedding and, like most weddings, was a huge celebration. People from all over the community, family and friends would gather and celebrate for days and nights the coming together of these two people for the culmination of the celebration in the public exchanging of their vows and the private consummating of the marriage.

By the way, the fact that Jesus was at this wedding and He performed a miracle there is an affirmation that He upholds the institution of marriage where, as **Mathew 19: 4 – 6** says, that He quoted from **Genesis 2: 24** **He who made them at the beginning made them male and female and for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh and what God has joined together, let not man separate.**

So while they are at this wedding a problem arises and we see it in Verses 3 – 5.

**Verses 3 – 5:** **and when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him they have no wine. Jesus said to her ‘woman what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come. His mother said to the servants ‘whatever He says to you, do it’.**

The problem was that the host had run out of wine and to do that in the middle of a wedding celebration would have been an embarrassing and demeaning thing and could have stigmatized the couple for life.. Wine in that time was as common as water is in our day. They used wine to mix with water so that the water could be drinkable and they used water to dilute wine to prevent drunkenness.

The problem with wine in those days was that it would ferment easily and quickly and when you drank it that way, undiluted or slightly diluted, you could become intoxicated. That is why the scriptures have so much to say about alcohol and drunkenness. Scripture does not forbid drinking alcohol, per se, but it certainly condemns drinking to the point of intoxication or your faculties being influenced by the alcohol.

In those days they drank mixed alcohol because they had to for the purity of the water and for the preservation of their health and thus the scriptural admonitions about when and how much to drink. Today no such reasons exist but the admonitions are the same, yet people drink, and many to the point of drunkenness, and we see the devastating consequences in our time today.

Alcoholism, drunkenness, domestic violence, alcohol influenced crimes of all types; from petty theft to robbery to murder. We see broken homes and families and marriages and abused children and spouses. Why would anyone want to subject themselves to something like that when they don't have to and why would anyone want to be a stumbling block to someone else by their example of drinking or drunkenness?

And yet this passage becomes one of the rallying points to all of those who want to drink or justifying drinking by saying 'well, Jesus turned water into wine, so it must be ok'.

Well, they run out of wine so Mary tells Jesus and in Verse 4 He says to her **woman what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.**

He answers her by calling her **woman** which is in essence telling her that their relationship is changing. He is the Messiah, the Son of God and no longer to be viewed as her Son, in the sense of who He really is. Woman is the word *gune* in the Greek and it is a term of endearment but not such as the word mother.

It is the same word that Jesus uses when He is on the cross and His mother is looking up at Him and the Apostle John is standing right next to her and Jesus says in **John 19: 26 – 27 woman *gune* behold your son and to the disciple, behold your mother.** It is still a lofty word but just not as close as mother.

He says, in essence, you are my human mother but I am God in human form, your Messiah and God and Redeemer and you need to look at Me in that light now, not in the relationship as mother to son but much more. Remember in **Mark 3: 31 – 35** where the people said to Jesus **your mother and your brothers are outside and want to see you.** What did Jesus say **for whoever does the will of God is My mother and My brother.**

He says **what does your concern have to do with Me, my hour has not yet come.** He is not saying ‘what does this have to do with Me?’. He is saying, ‘I’ve become aware that they have no wine so I will take care of this in My way’ because she says in Verse 5 **whatever He says to you, do it.**

He says **my hour has not yet come.** We will see that phrase over and over again in the book of John and it deals with Him being on God’s perfect timetable leading up to His death and glorification and will deal with it later. Here he is simply saying I will take care of this to display My glory in the way I want and no one will see My full glory until the hour of My death and subsequent glorification. So we see how He handles it in Verses 6 – 10.

**Verse 6: now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.**

There were some stoneware pots that contained water in them that had been **set there.** The reason they were set there is so that when the guests came they could wash the hands and their feet in a type of ritualistic purification before eating or reclining at a table.

In **Matthew 15: 2** it says **why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders, for they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.** In **Mark 7: 2 – 3** it says **now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they was their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the Elders.**

These waterpots contained **20 or 30 gallons** each so there would have been a total of about 150 gallons of water when they were full. So it gives you an idea of the number of guests they may have been expecting.

**Verse 7: Jesus said to them, fill the waterpots with water and they filled them up to the brim.** We don't know how much water was in them but to fill them to the brim would have taken some time. They would have had to go to a spring or some water source and bring the water back and it may have taken several servants to do that.

By the way, slaves didn't fill the water pots, which usually happened, it was the **servants**. Verse 5 says servants and verse 9 says servants, *diakonos*, which means either their were a lot of other things that the slaves were doing and these servants were helping here or the man holding the ceremony was wealthy and used servants much like slaves or a lot of people were helping out where they could.

That would explain why Jesus's mother was even concerned about the wine, because she was probably involved in serving the people in some way.

Anyway, they fill the water pots and in **Verse 8 Jesus said to them, draw some out now and take it to the master of the feast and they took it.**

The **master of the feast** was the one who was in charge of all of the food and drinks for all of the guests. It is the word *arch – tri – kline – ois*

*Arche = head tri = 3 kline = couches ois = oikos = house*

**Verse 9 – 10: when the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from, (but the servants who had drawn the water knew) the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him every man at the beginning sets out the good wine and when the guests have well drunk, then the interior. You have kept the good wine until now.**

The master tastes the wine and says ‘hey get that bridegroom over here I want to find out where he got this stuff from’. Can you imagine who good that wine would have tasted being made by Jesus Himself.

By the way, that little phrase **but the servants who had drawn the WATER knew**. They knew where the wine came from but notice this. It says **who drew the water**. When Jesus told the servants to draw the water it says they drew out water. So sometime between them drawing the water and it getting to the master, the water had turned into wine.

Now whether the water pots were all full of wine or every time one of the servants got a cup for someone to drink, it was made wine, we don’t know. I do know that had someone used the water pot, after this for washing, they may have been surprised if it was full of wine.

If they were full of wine, 150 gallons worth, it gives you an indication of how many people would have been there for everyone to have some. It would also show Jesus care for the groom and his family in doing this miracle to save face.

But I do know this, this was an incredible miracle. He bypassed the natural process for making wine, in both the elements needed (grapes, vines, dirt, sunlight, seeds) and the time needed (days, weeks, months) and made perfect wine.

Do you remember when He fed 5000 people with fish and bread? Who planted the grain to harvest to make bread and who made the bread and who caught the fish? Who cooked the fish and made it edible. He bypasses the natural because He is a supernatural God. He takes nothing and makes it something.



Isn't that what He did with you and me, He made something out of nothing. If you are a born again believer here today, Jesus took a sinful dirty wretched nothing of a person and made you a (what) new creation as **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21** says.

I want you to notice something else; it says the **servants knew**, they knew the miracle that had taken place and they knew the one who had performed the miracle, yet you read nothing more about them.

Because when they left Cana and went to Capernaum, the only ones who are recorded as going with Him were in **Verse 12 His mother, His brothers and His disciples**, the 5 who were with Him earlier. What happened to those who **knew** that Jesus had performed this incredible miracle, why didn't they follow Him?

I will tell you this, no amount of witnessing of miracles will bring someone to the place of genuine saving faith and following of Jesus Christ. Think how many people saw the miracles that Jesus did and they didn't follow Him. Only that sovereign work of God on a sinful heart will bring someone to the place where they believe who Jesus is, whether it is by a miracle or not but it will be by faith in the miracle worker. Notice what happens in Verse 11.

**Verse 11: this beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory and His disciples believed in Him.**

Jesus did this miracle, this sign, to **manifest His glory**, to display his deity and His character and attributes, to show that He was God in human form and in doing so **His disciples believed in Him**. They believed that He was who He said He was and who others said He was and now He has evidenced it through the power of God in a miracle. *No one ever denied the miracle Jesus did, just the source of them.*

In the book of John, he records only 8 or so miracles that Jesus does, but listen to what he says in **John 20: 30** and truly **Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book** and then in **John 21: 25** there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

In once sense that first miracle did nothing for the servants but it began to root and ground the disciples into their belief of who Jesus was. We heard about the Messiah, we heard you say you were the Messiah and now you have shown us that you truly are the Messiah, the Son of God.

John wrote this so that even you here this morning who have never seen Jesus or seen a miracle, have heard enough about Him through this book of John so far that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God and in believing you may have life in His name. How about you?

Share gospel here.

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Introduction and Review:

John 3: 2, Acts 2: 22

Verses 1 – 2: The Wedding and its true Significance

John 21: 2, John 1: 43, Matthew 1: 18 – 25  
Philippians 2: 6 – 8, Acts 20: 28, John 14: 2 – 3  
1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 16 – 17, Revelation 19: 17  
Matthew 19: 4 – 6, Genesis 2: 24

Verses 3 – 5: They have no Wine

John 19: 26 – 27, Mark 3: 31 – 35

Verses 6 - 10: Water into Wine

Matthew 15: 2, Mark 7: 2 – 3  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21

Verse 11 – 12: Jesus manifested His glory

John 20: 30, John 21: 25

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