

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

5) He Turned the Water into Wine

The first miracle of Jesus in John's gospel signified that Jesus had come to replace the cold, dead formalism of the old covenant with the life and joy of the new covenant

One of the things made prominent in John's introduction in Chapter One is the failure of Judaism and religion

This is seen in:

- ✓ **The sending of priests and Levites from Jerusalem to enquire of John who he was**
- ✓ **John's statement, 'John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know"' (Jn.1:26)**
- ✓ **The Jewish leaders were blind leaders of the blind. It was time to set aside the old covenant and the bring in 'a better hope.' '...the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God' (Heb.7:19)**
- ✓ **'The law and the prophets were until John' (Lk.16:16). This is illustrated by the 2 disciples leaving John and following Jesus (Jn.1:35-37)**

- ✓ **Jesus and 6 disciples came to a wedding**
- ✓ **Weddings were major social occasions in Israel**
- ✓ **All eyes were on the host, to see whether he would excel or disappoint**
- ✓ **The servants realized they were out of wine. Running out of wine would bring public shame to their social standing**
- ✓ **Jesus' mother asked Him to help. He told them to fill 6 waterpots with water, each containing 20-30 gallons, i.e., total = 120-180 gallons. As it was served the water became wine**
- ✓ **The ruler commented that this wine was better than the wine they had in the beginning**



- ✓ **Wine in Scripture is a picture of joy, 'And wine that makes glad the heart of man' (Ps.104:15)**
- ✓ **Religion and religious people do not bring joy**
- ✓ **Jesus 'came eating and drinking'**
- ✓ **These 6 stone jars normally held water for the ceremonial washing of hands and feet, 'For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders' (Mark 7:3)**
- ✓ **The waterpots were empty. They needed to be constantly filled because, under the law, people would constantly need to be cleansed**
- ✓ **There were 6. All that was left of Judaism was of the flesh. What were called the 'feasts of the Lord' (Lev. 23:2) were now 'the feasts of the Jews' (see John 2:13; 5:1; 6:4; 7:2)**

- ✓ **When they ran out of wine, Mary came and told Jesus and sought to exert her parental influence, by suggesting to Him what He ought to do**
- ✓ ***'Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come"'* (John 2:4). Lit. meaning = what is there in common between you and Me? 'I have been subject to you as a child; but not now. Leave it to me. We are not in partnership. I am in partnership with my Father. Realize who you are and who I am'**
- ✓ **He was not being rude but saying that His season of subjection to His parents was over, His public ministry had now commenced**
- ✓ ***'My hour has not yet come'* (Jn.2:4). 7 references are made in this Gospel to that awful 'hour'**

'Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come' (Jn. 7:30)

'These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come' (Jn.8:20)

'But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain"'
(Jn.12:23-24)

'Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour"'
(Jn.12:27)

'Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me' (Jn.16:32)

'Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You"' (Jn.17:1)

- ✓ *'His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it"' (Jn.2:5). This is the NC way, to commit our way unto Him and then leave it to Him to work in His own good time and way*
- ✓ **Jesus told the servants to fill the waterpots with water, (Jn.2:6-8). He is the One who works the miracle, yet the servants filled the waterpots and bore it to the governor of the feast. There was no magical formula: He did not even command the water to become wine. What took place was people obedience to Jesus**
- ✓ **God is pleased to use human instrumentality in performing the wonders of His grace. We fill the waterpots. He turns the water into wine. We present our humanity to Him; He does supernatural things through us**

God does extraordinary things through ordinary people so that His grace might be magnified

'We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us...' **(2 Cor.4:7)**

'Excellence' beyond the ordinary; extraordinary

'You see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things mighty; and base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence'

(1 Cor.1:26-29)

- ✓ **Water is a symbol of the written Word (Eph.5:26). By it we bring joy to human hearts**
- ✓ **The waterpots were filled to the brim. God gives good measure, abundance of grace!**
'...that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus' (Eph.2:7). 'To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ' (Eph3:8). '...to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God' (Eph.3:19)

****'This beginning of signs Jesus did' That is what the new birth is — a miracle. And just the beginning of miracles***

****'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 he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"' (Jn.2:9-10). They saved the best for last***

****The NC is superior to the OC. 'But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises' (Heb. 8:6)***

***The world (and Satan also) gives its best first, and keeps the worst for the last. First the pleasures of sin—for a season—and then the wages of sin. But with God it is the very opposite. *'But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day'* (Prov.4:18)**

****'This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him'* (John 2:11). He revealed His glory and the disciples put their faith in Him. In contrast, the ruler was amazed and did not know what had happened, but the servants knew, (see Matt.11:25)**