

'The Son of God and the Lord of Glory Series'

Sermons in the Gospel of John

Message 20 - 'The First Miracle' John 2:1 - 11



As we come to Christ's first miracle, we see that it is right to be a people of joy if we are in Christ. Certainly, it is not the type of joy that the world offers, but the divine and desirable joy that is the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many get consumed with the miracle itself, and the product, and circumstances. But, this miracle was a sign, and signs point to something greater than themselves. V11, it 'manifested forth His glory', and so when we see this miracle, we need to see above all the One who brought it to pass, and the fact that He is the One who gives abundantly. We can see the following:

The Wedding (v1-5) - John reiterates a point that we see throughout his writing, that Jesus was on a divine schedule, obeying the will of His Father. It is clear that by attending the wedding, and then performing His first miracle there, sanctified the institution and ceremony of marriage. Marriage is the sacred union of a man and a woman whereby they become one in the sight of God. As the wedding progresses there was a lack of wine. The significance is not to be missed, it would be very embarrassing for the couple, and the bridegroom's family, and would have damaged their reputation in the community. The first consideration of the miracle needs to be seen in the light of this. The Lord moves not just for sensation, designed to wow His audience. All of the Lord's miracles met specific needs. Mary sees the serious problem and she goes to Jesus, and simply states the situation. The Lord's reply seems baffling. He makes it clear that the relationship that they had enjoyed in Nazareth was now to change, His public ministry had begun, and as such, He worked to the schedule of His heavenly Father, earthly relationships would not dictate His actions. By illustrating this, Jesus was making it clear to Mary that she was to relate to Him as her Lord and Saviour, not just as her son. The Lord continues to explain, that His hour had not yet come, Jesus again refers to the divine timetable of which He is clear. He speaks here of His death and ultimate glorification. The darkness of Calvary would be the blazing centre of God's glory.

The Wonder (v6-10) - The Lord's first miracle was a quiet event at a wedding, whereas His last miracle recorded by John would be a public event after a funeral. Mary's faith was not misplaced, as the Lord commands the servants to fill the waterpots with water. Christ simply willed the transformation and it took place. The wonder of this is that Jesus displays his marvellous and magnanimous grace. Such a large amount of wine (120-180 gallons) was an abundant supply. After the pots were filled, the servants were instructed by the Lord to take some out and present it to the headwaiter. What surprise he was hit with when it seemed that this groom had saved the very best for last.

The Witness (v11) - The Lord manifested His glory, He displayed a mark of His deity. These signs were not just as we said earlier of compassion and meeting needs, but they were to reveal part of God's glory, and to manifest that God was at work. That is the first and foremost in all things, even in redemption, that God is glorified. So, what has this to do with joy? The world's joy always runs out and cannot be regained. However, the joy that Christ provides by His grace working in a life, is abundant, it is ever new, and ever satisfying, and never disappoints. Likewise, the world always offers the best first, to get you hooked, and then once you are ensnared things just gets worse and worse. However, with Christ, Jesus continues to offer the very best until we one day will enjoy the finest blessings in the eternal kingdom. Also note, that Moses' first miracle was a plague - he turned the water into blood. This spoke of the Lord's great judgement. Moses also brought the law, and when man is compared to it, is always without exception found wanting, and at odds with a holy God. Yet, the Lord's first miracle turns water to wine, and often wine in the Scriptures speaks of joy. The gift He provides is abundant, and it speaks of the depth of His love and grace. Christ fulfilled the law, and so He is able bring grace to the fallen, love to the loveless. All of these blessings were made possible through the cross. The greatest revelation of God's glory.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs