

Food for thought from the Gospel of John

2 – 1 Miracle at a Wedding

Read John 2:1-11

The Apostle John invested a lot of effort, in chapter one, to introduce who Jesus really is. In the first chapter we have no less than seven titles or descriptions of Him. Jesus is the Eternal, Divine Word of God. He is the true Light that lights every man. He is the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is the Son of God, the King of Israel, and the Son of man.

John is now going to reveal who Jesus is by His words and actions. We will see a selection of Jesus' miracles used to demonstrate His lordship and mastery over everything. John chooses a word for "miracle" that also means "sign." The first sign is shown at a wedding. Jesus will mostly do signs that confront disease, death, and the rugged powers of the natural elements. Here, at this wedding, and also at the feeding of over five thousand people with five loaves and two fish (John 6:1-14), Jesus will show His creative power and His compassion for our every-day needs.

Jesus honored this wedding with His presence. He took time for a social event. Jesus also honors the institution of marriage. And so should we. Jesus uses marriage to show the intimacy and order of how He relates to His church / His bride (Ephesians 5:22-33).

Jesus' mother came to her Son with a request. It is to be noted that she is not referred to as "Mary," but rather "the mother of Jesus." Jesus always honored His mother, but here he had to cut the apron strings and refer to her as "woman." The force of that word is not derogatory or belittling. It is equivalent to someone, today saying "ma'am" or "madam." As He is about to begin revealing Himself, she must relate to Him as other women must – her Savior / Messiah. Though not taking instructions from her, He graciously supplies for the need at this feast.

Let's note some interesting symbolism in this first miracle / sign:

1 There were six stone waterpots. – Six is the number that represents man. For example, God created man on the sixth day (Genesis 1:31).

2 These empty pots had to be filled with water. – Servants were asked to do that. They filled them to the brim. Water is a representation of God’s word (Ephesians 5:26; Psalm 1:2-3; Isaiah 55:10-11).

3 Without anyone noticing at first, Jesus turned the water in those six pots to wine. – In Scripture, wine comes from the *“blood of the grape”* (Genesis 49:11; Deuteronomy 32:14). As servants, we are to fill people with the knowledge of God’s word (water). It is the work of Christ to change that knowledge into saving faith – faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. See John 4:10,14; Romans 10:17; I Thessalonians 1:4-6; 2:13; I Peter 1:23.