

Theme: Jesus turned water into wine as a sign that He is the Lord of the New Covenant and its great wedding feast.

## I. Intro - The Importance of Signs

### A. We live in a world full of signs

1. Road signs - but men don't need those!
2. Non-verbal signs - the majority of communication
3. Physical signs in our body - my shoulder last year

### B. Signs do 2 important things

1. They point to something else, not themselves
2. They give us information so we can make the right decision

### C. Our new series: Signs - 7 signs in John's Gospel

1. These seven signs are an important structure
2. Chapters 1-12 often called "the book of signs"
3. They are central to understanding the Gospel  
Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.  
<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30-31

- a. Many other signs - these were chosen specifically
- b. Point to the fact that Jesus is Messiah, Son of God
- c. The proper choice - believe in Jesus and find life!

### D. First Sign (Water to Wine) - Lord of the Wedding Feast

## II. The Sign: Jesus Turns Water to Wine

### A. The background: Jesus goes to a wedding

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. John 2:1-2

1. Third day - 7th day since narrative began at 1:19
2. Jesus had promised great miracles to Nathanael - and we begin at a wedding!
3. Jesus is no ascetic, living in the wilderness. He has come to be with us!

### B. The problem: they run out of wine!

When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." <sup>4</sup> "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." John 2:3-5

1. Jewish weddings were huge affairs lasting up to 7 days, often with much of the community invited
2. Wine was a key component in any celebration in Jewish culture  
"There is no rejoicing save with wine" (b. Pesah. 109a).
3. This was a disaster for the new family, and Mary seeks to intervene by telling Jesus
4. Jesus' curt reply to Mary
  - a. Woman - unusual but not nasty in that culture
  - b. Literally - "what between you and me?"

- c. Jesus establishes distance between Himself & Mary. Her designs are not necessarily the same as His.
- d. Still can be spoken with affection - like when Linda calls me "Jerry Hicks" for cleaning up before she is done using something. Affectionate, but it communicates!

5. "My hour has not yet come"

- a. The "hour" is spoken of many times in John
 

At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. John 7:30 (also John 8:20)

Jesus replied, "The **hour** has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this **hour**'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this **hour**." John 12:23, 27

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13:1
- b. Jesus is establishing that everything must be done with a view to the "hour" of His crucifixion, death, and burial, the hour of His glory. The only will and voice guiding Him are the Father's.
- c. He knows that when He reveals Himself it will set opposition in motion that will lead to His betrayal and death - so things must be done with a purpose.
- d. In short, Jesus is looking at a far bigger picture and with greater depth than Mary can imagine at this point - and He must remind her of that fact.
- e. We would do well to remember this as well - sometimes we have desires, but Jesus knows far more than we do and can not be forced into fulfilling our momentary desires.

6. "Do whatever he tells you."

- a. Mary still responds in faith. She is a great example here.
- b. She is similar to the Canaanite woman who responded in faith when Jesus seemed to brush her aside. We must always do the same!
- c. She does not know what Jesus will do, but she knows it will be the right thing, and whatever He commands should be followed.

C. The sign: Jesus turns water into wine

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. John 2:6-9

1. Jesus commands servants to fill six large stone vessels with water - 120 to 150 gallons!
2. They obey and fill each one right to the brim
3. He then tells them to draw some water from the vessels and take it to the master of the banquet
4. v9 - the water had been turned to wine!
5. The master does not even know the miracle has happened - but the servants do!

D. The result: abundant blessing

Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.” Jn 2:9–10

1. Jesus not only turned water into wine - He made it a fine, aged wine that was superior to the other wine
2. We are like the bridegroom - given credit for what Jesus has done! This is the way of the Gospel!

### III. The Reality: Lord of the Wedding Feast

A. The sign reveals Jesus is the Lord of the New Covenant

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Jn 1:16-17 ESV

1. From Jesus’ fulness we receive grace upon grace
2. This is far greater than what came through Moses
3. Also true of the signs related to Jesus & Moses
  - a. Moses’ signs were plagues (same word is used)
  - b. Jesus signs mainly brought healing, blessing
  - c. Moses’ first sign turned water into blood as a curse
  - d. Jesus’ first sign turns water into wine as a blessing
  - e. Moses’ last sign was the death of the firstborn
  - f. Jesus’ final sign will be the resurrection of Lazarus!
4. This sign reveals that Jesus is turning the water of old covenant rituals into the wine of new covenant realities

5. This sign reveals that the ministry of lesser glory has been turned into the ministry of greater glory as the old covenant gives way to the new.

B. The sign reveals Jesus is Lord of the Messianic Wedding Feast

1. Wine was a sign of God’s blessing

He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth: <sup>15</sup> wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts. Psalm 104:14–15

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9–10

2. Wine was a blessing of the Messianic age and rule  
“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, <sup>14</sup> and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. “They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. Amos 9:13–14

In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house and will water the valley of acacias. Joel 3:18

- a. Both texts speak of God gathering His people from their exile - the Messianic age

- b. Both speak of the blessing in terms of overflowing, abundant wine
- c. When Jesus comes as the Messiah, His first sign is to produce overflowing, abundant wine to bless the people. This shows that He is the Messiah and is inaugurating the New Covenant and Messianic age.

C. This is why John said this sign revealed Jesus' glory - He is not a purveyor of a parlor trick, but the Messiah, and Lord of the New Covenant and its wedding feast!

#### IV. Applying the Word

A. Respond in faith to Jesus the Messiah, Son of God

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11)

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30–31)

1. The disciples saw the sign and believed!
2. Throughout this story, people trust Jesus - Mary, servants, disciples
3. This sign was recorded so that we would believe!
4. Do you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God?
5. Do you believe He has come to offer grace and forgiveness?
6. Do you believe that He has inaugurated the new covenant and the new age?

7. Believe - and have life in His name!

B. The Table of the Wedding Feast

1. It is not surprising that Jesus gave us this Table to remember Him!
2. It points back to the fact that He is the Messiah!
3. It points forward to the Great Wedding Feast He will celebrate with us!

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines. <sup>7</sup>On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; <sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. <sup>9</sup> In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." Isaiah 25:6–9

4. Come celebrate at the Table of the Wedding Feast!

#### The Lord of the Wedding Feast

John 2:1-11  
 March 10, 2019  
 Communion

Genesis 27:28; Deuteronomy 33:15-16

Teaching keywords: Christology; Deity of Christ; miraculous gifts and signs; God's glory; new covenant; eschatology

May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness — an abundance of grain and new wine, with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains and the fruitfulness of the everlasting hills; with the best gifts of the earth and the favor of our Lord, until you sit at His Wedding Feast on the final day! (From Genesis 27:28; Deuteronomy 33:15-16)

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Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." <sup>11</sup> What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. John 2:1–11 NIV2011