

## Pt 11 Jesus First Recorded Miracle – John 2:1-12

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church [www.pbcknox.com](http://www.pbcknox.com)

### John 2:1-12

1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.**

5 His mother saith unto the servants, **Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.**

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, **Fill the waterpots with water.** And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, **Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.** And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

We pick up in Chapter 2 after Jesus had begun calling his disciples.

1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

It says, “the third day.” This is either talking about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after Jesus began calling his disciples or the third day of the Wedding feast. From what I understand from studying about Jewish marriages, the wedding feast lasts for 7-days.

The wedding takes place in Cana of Galilee which is about 9-miles north of Nazareth and was also the home of Nathanael, whom we talked about last Sunday.

Jesus’ mother, Mary, was also attending the wedding. We are not told who was getting married, it may have been a relative of hers or just a friend of the family.

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

At this point, the Gospel of John has only told us about 5 of the 12 Jesus would call: Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathanael, and the other disciple that followed John the Baptist, which most likely was the writer of this Gospel, John, son of Zebedee.

So, Jesus and at least 5 of his disciples, are invited to attend the wedding as well. They were probably all passing through and it would have been disrespectful for them to turn down an invitation to attend.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

It is interesting that Mary takes it upon herself to go to Jesus on the wedding party’s behalf to have their wine problem taken care of. We are not told anywhere in the Bible

where Mary witnessed Jesus performing any miracles; however, she obviously knew he was able to take care of this problem in some form of fashion. Perhaps she wanted to show her son off?

Obviously, they had ran out of wine. From what I understand, whenever there was a wedding, the entire town was invited to attend. There was either poor planning on someone’s part or more people showed up than what they thought would come. Regardless, they have ran out of wine which would have been a very embarrassing thing and could even have resulted in a legal dispute. In those days and culture you were legally bound to take care of your guests. Any of the invited guests could have demanded to be compensated for their loss. I know it sounds crazy to us but that’s the way things were.

Of course, we also do not drink wine the way they did. We have clean drinking water here in the United States. Often the water in the Middle East was contaminated and drinking it straight would make you sick, so they drank wine mixed with water instead. That’s why Paul wrote to Timothy: **1 Timothy 5:23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities.**

A lot of people use this portion of the Bible to validate drinking wine. This message is not about the sin of drinking alcoholic beverages; But, let me say this: The Bible does not forbid drinking wine; however, it is clear that it is sinful to be drunk.

Here are just a few of the passages warning against it:

**Proverbs 20:1** Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

**Proverbs 21:17** He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

**Isaiah 28:7-8** But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. **8** For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

**Ephesians 5:18** And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Jesus would not do anything that is sinful or cause other to sin, therefore, the wine they were drinking was not to get drunk on. It wasn’t a booze fest where folks were bellying up to the bar and getting wasted. It would have been more like we drink Tea for dinner or supper.

4 Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.**

This scene between Jesus and his mother has always made me uncomfortable. I think anyone standing there listening to them would have been as well. It’s obvious Jesus is mildly rebuking Mary for asking this. Those words he spoke “**Woman, what have I to do with thee?**” Shows that Jesus is putting distance between himself and his mother. Jesus is on the Father’s mission, and it isn’t providing wine for someone’s wedding.

He tells her: “**mine hour is not yet come.**” The hour Jesus is referring to is his death. If he is going to perform miracles, he will do it in his own time as God directs not as his mother commands. Mary must understand that while Jesus is her son, he is also the Son of God and has a divine purpose.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, *Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*

I think Mary got the hint. She tells the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them to do. He will do it in his own time and in his own way and has nothing to do with her.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, *Fill the waterpots with water.* And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, *Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.* And they bare it.

As we said at the beginning of the message, this is Jesus' first recorded miracle. He would perform many others after this. We have no way of knowing exactly how many miracles he performed because the very last verse in the last Chapter of this Gospel says: **John 21:25** *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*

This miracle; however, will demonstrate His deity, as we are shown in verse 11 **This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.** Only God could create something out of nothing.

These 6 water pots would have probably been sitting near the entrance of the door. They were normally used for ceremonial cleansing.

Notice that these servants obeyed Jesus in everything he said and filled the water pots to the brim – not half full, but completely to the top where they were about to overflow. Because of their obedience, they shared in the miracle that Jesus wrought. I think these servants are type of Christian. It shows how when we are faithful to the Lord Jesus and obedient, that we also share in His Glory.

One Bible commentator that I read, named; Henry Mahan, says this:

*We have a picture of the regeneration of a sinner.*

- 1. The sinner is empty like the waterpots.*
- 2. The sinner receives the water of the written word at the command of Christ.*
- 3. The water produced the best wine by the power of Christ.*
- 4. The change was a miracle, as is the new birth.*
- 5. The miracle manifested forth his glory (Joh\_2:11).*
- 6. The governor proclaimed it to be the best wine, as truly his grace and redemption is far better than the best the world can give.*

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, 10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but thou hast kept the good wine until now.*

The governor of the feast was the overseer of the whole thing. That's why Jesus told the servants to take the glasses they had filled from the water pots to him first. Take notice that the servants knew where it had come from but not the governor. This shows us that Jesus did not perform this miracle for the entire wedding party. It was only in front of those servants and his disciples.

Had Jesus made a big show out of it, the people most likely would have done like they did later on and try and force him to be king. But, just as Jesus told his own mother, his hour had not yet come.

The governor is very impressed that the bridegroom had waited until then to serve the good wine. He said most men serve the good wine first and then start serving the lesser wine.

This shows us that when we wait on Jesus, we always get the best. So many times we are like Mary and Martha who thought Jesus was too late to save their brother, but he was actually right on time. If we will learn to wait on the Lord we will be much better off. I'm bad about wanting to jump out and do things on my own because I'm a very impatient person. I'm trying harder to wait though because I know it's better.

11 **This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.**

Here we see the purpose for the miracle; it "manifested forth his glory." It wasn't just to demonstrate his power, but to show forth his deity.

It says "and his disciples believed on him," but they already believed on him or they would not have followed him. I think it means they more fully understood his deity and it helped to solidify in their minds that He was the Son of God.

12 **After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.**

Jesus, his disciples and his mother and brothers all leave Cana and go to Capernaum which was about 16-miles further North in Galilee. This is where Jesus would sort of setup his home base. In the Gospel of Matthew it is called "**his city.**" (**Matthew 9:1** *And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.*)

Most of Jesus' ministry was centered around the cities of Galilee. He did go to Jerusalem at least 4 different times that we know of (in fact, the very next verse we see that is where he goes to next) but most of his time was in and around Galilee.