

“Only The Beginning!”
John 2:1-11

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John - Where This Morning:
 - We Begin A New Chapter - Chapter 2!
 - That Opens Up On:
 - A Whole New Day:
 - In The First Full Week:
 - Of The Ministry Of Jesus:
 - That John Is Recording For Us In His Gospel!
2. And This New Day:
 - Is A Special Day!
 - Because This Day:
 - Is A Day Of Demonstration:
 - When Jesus Begins To ***Confirm***:
 - All The Claims That Have Already Been Made About Him!
 - The Claim Of John The Baptist:
 - That Jesus Was:
 - “The Lamb Of God Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!” (1:29)
 - The Claim Of Andrew:
 - That Jesus Was:
 - “The Messiah – The Christ!” (1:41)
 - And - The Claim Of Nathanael:
 - That Jesus Was:
 - “The Son Of God” & “The King Of Israel!” (1:49)
3. And Jesus Begins To Confirm These Claims:
 - With A Miracle - A Sign!
 - And This Sign Is Recorded For Us In 2:1-11!
 - Let's Read These Verses Together!
 - “And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: / And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. / And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. / Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. / His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do [it]. / And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. / Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. / And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare [it]. / 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, / 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. / This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him!”
4. Now - The Day On Which:
 - Jesus Performed His First Miracle:
 - Was “On The Third Day” - John Tells Us!
 - But - The “Third Day” From What?
 - From The Last Day:
 - Back In 1:43 - When Jesus Found Two More Disciples:
 - Philip & Nathanel!
 - And - If We Add All The Days Up Together:
 - This Day Would Have Been:
 - The Seventh & Final Day:
 - Of Jesus' First Full Week:
 - Of Public Ministry!
 - Now - We're Not Entirely Sure:
 - On Which Day Of The Week:
 - This Day Would Have Fallen!

- But - The Numbers Of The Days:
 - Have Significance All Throughout The Scriptures!
- And - Whenever:
 - You Find A “Third Day” Or A “Seventh Day” Come Around:
 - You Can Expect Something Special To Happen On Those Days!
- And - That Was Especially True:
 - On This Day! Because:
 - On This Day - We Read About:

1. A Great Event:

- That Jesus Attended In 2:1-2!
 - A Wedding! Because - On That:
 - “Third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: / And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage!”
- Now - A Wedding - Back In Jesus’ Day:
 - Was An Even Bigger Deal:
 - Than It Is Today!
 - Because - It Was One Of The Most Important Events:
 - In All Of Jewish Society!
- And - The Wedding Was More Than Just:
 - A One Day Event!
 - It Could Last Up To A Week:
 - And Was The Culmination Of:
 - Planning & Preparation:
 - That Lasted Over An Entire Year!
- And So - A Wedding:
 - Turned Into A Great Celebration:
 - With A Reception & A Feast:
 - All Taking Place Before:
 - The Bridegroom Was Able To Take His Bride:
 - Into Their New Home To Establish Their New Life Together!
- Well - This Event Took Place:
 - In Cana Of Galilee!
 - Which Is Where Nathanael Was From!
 - And Was A Town Just A Few Miles From:
 - Nazareth:
 - Where Jesus Was From!
- And - There Must Have Been Some Close Ties:
 - Between Those Villages:
 - In Spite Of What Nathanael Said About Nazareth!
 - Because - Jesus’ Mother - Mary:
 - Was In Attendance!
 - And May Have Been One Of The Helpers / Planners Of The Event!
- But Then - Jesus Arrived!
 - Along With The 5-6 Or So Disciples He Had Already Gathered!
 - And - Just By His Arrival:
 - Jesus Brought His Own Blessing & Honor:
 - To God’s First Institution:
 - Of Marriage!
 - Which Is Something:
 - That - As Bible Believing Christians:
 - We Must Never Forget:
 - Was Designed & Defined By God All The Way Back In The Beginning!
 - When - God Himself Introduced:
 - The First Man & The First Woman Together:
 - Whom He Created:
 - So That - Genesis 2:24 - “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh!”

- Any Alteration Of This Marriage Formula:
 - Created By God - And Blessed By:
 - Jesus - Is Not A True Marriage:
 - And Is Wrong! Is A Sin!
 - And Should Not Be Honored Or Blessed In Any Way:
 - By Those Who Follow Jesus!
- Well - It Was At This Great Event:
 - That We Then Discover:

2. *A Great Expectation:*

- In 2:3-5 - When We First Hear About:
 - The Expectation:
 - Of Wine!
 - John Tells Us That:
 - "They Wanted Wine" - In 2:3!
 - This Means That - All The Wine They Had Planned & Prepared For The Wedding:
 - Had Completely Ran Out!
 - And - In Jesus' Day - This Would Have Been:
 - Scandalous & Greatly Offensive!
 - Because - How A Bridegroom:
 - Prepared For His Guests:
 - At His Wedding!
 - Was A Reflection Of:
 - How He Would Provide For:
 - His Bride!
 - Some Historians Have Even Discovered:
 - That There Could Have Even Been:
 - Legal Proceedings Brought Against:
 - This Kind Of Negligence!
 - To Have No Wine:
 - Was A Big Deal - At A Very:
 - Big Event!
 - This Is Even More Surprising:
 - When You Think About How They Consumed The Wine:
 - They Did Have!
 - Because Intoxication Was & Is Still Considered Sinful:
 - The Wine Was Watered Down - From 1/3 To Even 1/10 With Water!
 - But - It Was When:
 - "They Wanted Wine" (2:3) - That We Find:
 - The Expectation:
 - Of A Woman!
 - And - Not Just Any Woman:
 - But - Mary - The Mother Of Jesus!
 - She Knew About This Problem! And:
 - She Cared About This Problem!
 - Because She Cared About The People At The Wedding!
 - Especially The Bride & The Groom!
 - And So - She Came To Jesus:
 - With That Problem! That Need!
 - She Said Unto Him:
 - "They Have No Wine!"
 - Now - By This Time In Jesus' Life:
 - He Was About 30 Years Of Age!
 - And - Since There Is No Further Reference About Joseph:
 - We Assume That He Had Already Passed Away!
 - So - Since Jesus Was The Oldest:
 - Mary Had Learned To Lean On & Trust Jesus:
 - To Help Her With The Decisions And Needs She Would Have Had:

- In The Absence Of Her Husband!
- And That's Just What She Did Here!
 - And - I Believe She Fully Expected Jesus:
 - To Do Something About This Need!
- After All - As His Mother:
- She Knew Jesus:
 - **Could** Do Something!
 - And - She Believed Jesus:
 - **Would** Do Something!
- But - This Is Where The Story Gets Even More Interesting!
 - Because - Instead Of Jesus:
 - Simply & Obediently Complying With:
 - The Expectation Of His Mother:
 - In 2:4 - He Mildly Rebukes Her!
 - "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come!"
- Instead Of Calling Mary:
 - His Mother - He Calls Her:
 - "Woman!" - Not In A Derogatory Way:
 - But - In A Less Familiar Way:
 - As You Might Call A Woman - "Ma'am!"
- Instead Of Consenting With Mary:
 - And Her Request - He Says:
 - "What Have I To Do With Thee?"
 - Or - What Do We Have In Common - Between Me & Thee?
- And - Instead Of Immediately Complying With Mary:
 - And Her Expectation - He Says:
 - "Mine Hour Is Not Yet Come!"
- What Is Going On Here:
 - Between Jesus & His Mother?
 - Well - Remember That:
 - In 2:11 - John Tells Us That This Was Jesus' "Beginning Of Miracles / Signs!"
 - And - As A "Sign" - It Points To Something:
 - More About Jesus:
 - Than First Meets The Eye!
- You See - Things Between Jesus & His Mother:
 - Had Changed - Since The Last Time They Saw Each Other!
 - Jesus Had Been Baptized By John!
 - Jesus Had Been Tempted By The Devil!
 - Jesus Had Been Identified As The Messiah!
 - And Now - The Relationship That Jesus Had With His Mother:
 - Had Dramatically Changed!
 - He Was Embarking On The Purpose For His Coming!
 - And - From Then On - He Would Be About:
 - His Father's Business, And No Longer His Mother's!
- The Relationship She Had With Jesus:
 - Was Changed & Transformed!
 - But - It Was Transformed:
 - Into Something Even Better & Greater!
 - Because - No Longer Was Jesus:
 - Just A Son To Her!
 - But A Savior!
 - Even - The Savior She Knew She Needed!
 - In Luke 1:46-47 - When Mary Learned From The Angel That She Would Be The Virgin Mother Of Jesus - She Said:
 - "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour!"
- And - This Is The Significance:
 - Of This First Sign / Miracle:

- That Jesus Did!
- It Shows Us That Jesus Came:
 - To Transform The Relationship You Have With Him:
 - Into Something Better!
- Before You Come To Christ:
 - You Were At Enmity With God! God's Enemy!
 - But - Through Christ:
 - You Can Become His Friend!
- Before You Come To Christ:
 - You Were Nothing But A Sinner!
 - But Through Christ:
 - You Can Become A Saint!
- And In Christ:
 - The New Relationship:
 - Is Always Better Than the Old!
 - And - It Will Only Get Better!
 - And - I Think Mary Understood This!
- Because - In Response To Jesus' Words:
 - She Simply & Meekly Tells The Servants:
 - 2:5 - "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it!" - What Faith Mary Had In Jesus!
 - Not Just As Her Son, But As Her Savior From Sin!
- And This Leads Us To:

3. ***A Great Explanation:***

- In 2:6-8 - About Jesus First Sign / Miracle!
 - "And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. / Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. / And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare [it]!"
 - The First Thing Mentioned In These Verses Is:
- The Waterpots:
 - Used By Jesus - For His Miracle!
 - Six Stone Waterpots:
 - Each Holding About 20-30 Gallons Of Water!
 - So - A Total Of 120-180!
 - And - The Water Was Being Used At The Wedding:
 - Not For Drinking - But For:
 - "Purification" Purposes!
 - Washing The Feet / Hands / Utensils Of The Guests!
 - Not Just For Sanitary Reasons:
 - But For Religious, Ritual Cleansing:
 - "After The Manner Of The Purifying Of The Jews!"
 - But Then - We Also See:
- The Witnesses:
 - Used By Jesus - For His Miracle!
 - The Servants That Were There:
 - Jesus Tells Them To:
 - Fill Them Up! And They Did So!
 - All The Way To The Brim!
 - So - Nothing Else Could Be Added:
 - To The Waterpots!
 - And Then - He Tells Them:
 - "Draw Out Now, And Bear Unto The Governor / Master Of The Feast!"
 - The One Responsible For:
 - The Tables & The Food!
 - And So They Did!
 - Now - Some Think That:
 - They Drew The Water:

- Out Of The Well - Since That Word Is Frequently Used For That:
 - In Other Places!
- I Think - More Than Likely:
 - They Drew The Water:
 - Out Of One Of The Waterpots!
 - But - Either Way!
- What Happens To The Water?
 - 2:9 - “When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom!”
 - John Records This Miracle:
 - Almost As An Afterthought!
 - As - “The Water Now Become Wine!” / “The Water Turned To Wine!”
 - But - What A Miracle This Was!
 - It Was Something Only God Could Do!
 - He Took Something:
 - Rather Simple & Ordinary:
 - As Water - H2O!
 - And Utterly Transformed It:
 - Into Something:
 - Complex And Extraordinary!
 - The Chemical Makeup Of Wine:
 - Is Very Complex!
 - And New Elements Would Have To Be Added To The Water:
 - Which Were Not There!
 - But - Both Quickly & Quietly:
 - Jesus Created Something Entirely New:
 - Out Of Just Water!
 - And He Did So In Great Quantity! And With Great Quality!
 - And - This Too Is The Significance:
 - Of This First Sign / Miracle:
 - Of Jesus!
 - It Shows Us That Jesus Came:
 - To Completely Transform:
 - Not Only The Relationship You Have With Him! But Also:
 - The Requirement You Have With Him!
 - Into Something Better!
 - It Was No Accident That:
 - Jesus Used Those 6 Stone Waterpots:
 - To Perform This Miracle!
 - Because What They Used To Purify Their Bodies:
 - On The Outside!
 - Jesus Would Transform & Use To Refresh Their Spirits & Their Souls:
 - Even On The Inside!
 - You See - When Jesus Turned The Water Into Wine:
 - It Was Because:
 - The Purpose Of The Water Anticipated The Gospel!
 - The Old Anticipated The New!
 - Even Though The Jews Used The Water:
 - To Wash Their Hands & Cups & Pots & Vessels & Tables! (Mark 7:4)
 - Jesus Reminded Them & Us That:
 - “There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man!” (Mark 7:15)
 - In Other Words:
 - To Be Truly Clean & Purified:
 - It Must Be Done From The Inside Out! Not From The Outside In!
 - They No Longer Needed:
 - Those Waterpots For Washing:
 - Things On The Outside!

- They Could Now Use Them:
 - For Refreshing Themselves:
 - On The Inside!
- Also - When Jesus Turned The Water Into Wine:
 - It Was Because:
 - The Purpose Of The Water Was Accomplished & Completed!
 - They No Longer Needed The Water:
 - To Purify Them!
 - That Is One Reason Why John Tells Us That The Servants:
 - Filled Each Waterpot "To The Brim!" (2:7)
 - Because - Water Cannot Purify You:
 - Where You Need It The Most!
 - Only Jesus Can Purify You:
 - In Your Heart!
- Also - When Jesus Turned The Water Into Wine:
 - It Was Because:
 - The Purpose Of The Water Was Now Altered & Changed!
 - They No Longer Need The Water:
 - To Remind Them Constantly:
 - Of Their Impurity & Sin!
 - Instead - They Had The Wine:
 - To Revive & Refresh Their Spirits:
 - As A Blessing From God Himself!
- And - This Is What Jesus Came To Do:
 - For Each One Of Us!
 - The Wine Is A Symbol To Us:
 - Of The Gospel!
 - Because Only Jesus Can Transform:
 - Our Requirement:
 - To Be Holy & Clean Before God!
 - Our Purification:
 - Can Only Come Through Christ!
 - 1 Corinthians 6:11 - "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God!"
- But - There's Something More That We Find:
 - Going On At This Wedding In Cana Of Galilee!
 - And That Is:

4. ***A Great Exclamation:***

- In 2:10 - When - After The "Governor Of The Feast Called The Bridegroom" - John Tells Us:
 - "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 Man In Charge:
 - Was Completely Surprised:
 - With What Bridegroom Had Done!
 - Now - We're Not Sure Of His Tone:
 - When He Said This!
 - Was It In Contempt? Or:
 - Was It In Commendation?
 - Don't Know - But What We Do Know:
 - Is That The Wine That Jesus Made From That Water:
 - Was Not Only Real Wine:
 - It Was The Best Wine:
 - He'd Ever Tasted!
 - Because - Whenever Jesus Does Something:
 - Whenever Jesus Does Anything:
 - He Doeth "All Things Well!" (Mark 7:37)

- And - This Too Is The Significance:
 - Of This First Sign / Miracle:
 - Of Jesus!
 - It Shows Us That Jesus Came:
 - To Completely Transform:
 - Not Only The Relationship You Have With Him!
 - Not Only The Requirement You Have From Him! But Also:
 - The Reputation You Had Before Him!
 - Into Something Far Better Than You Once Had!
 - The One Character:
 - In This Whole Story:
 - That Had The Most At Stake:
 - Was Not Mary, Not The Master, But The Bridegroom!
 - Since The Wine Had Ran Out:
 - His Reputation Would Have Been Completely Shredded!
 - And - At That Time - Rightfully So!
 - He Would Have Been:
 - Full Of Guilt & Shame!
 - How Could He Provide For His Wife, If He Couldn't Provide For His Guests?
 - But - What Did Jesus Do For This Man?
 - He Rescued Him & His Reputation:
 - And He Didn't Even Know It!
- And This Too Is What Jesus Came To Do:
 - For You! To Change & Transform:
 - Your Own Reputation:
 - Before God!
 - Without Christ - You Were Full:
 - Of Guilt & Shame:
 - Because Of Your Sin!
 - But - Jesus Came So That:
 - When You Believe In & Trust In Him:
 - You Become "Accepted" Before God "In The Beloved!"
 - In Jesus Christ Himself!
 - As We Sometimes Sing:
 - In Christ Alone - Now You Can Have:
 - "No Guilt In Life, No Fear In Death!
 - This Is The Power Of Christ In Me!
 - From Life's First Cry To Final Breath,
 - Jesus Commands My Destiny!
 - No Power Of Hell, No Scheme Of Man
 - Can Ever Pluck You From His Hand!
 - Till He Returns Or Calls You Home,
 - Here, In The Power Of Christ, You Stand!"
 - Christ Alone Can Transform:
 - Your Reception By & Your Reputation Before God!
 - Not By Who You Are!
 - Not By What You Have!
 - Not By What You've Done!
 - But By Who Christ Is & What Christ Has & What Christ Has Done!
 - All For You!
- And - That Leads Us To:

5. *A Great Effect:*

- In 2:11 - Where We Are Told That:
 - "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him!"
 - What Jesus Did There:
 - Was Only The Beginning:

- Of His Signs & Miracles!
- He Didn't Stop!
- And - He Still Hasn't Stopped!
- What Jesus Did To That Water:
 - In Its Physical & Chemical Nature:
 - He Can Do For You:
 - In Your Heart & Soul!
- Jesus Can Continue To:
 - Transform The Relationship:
 - You Have With God! Because:
 - You've Been Adopted Into His Family!
- Jesus Can Continue To:
 - Transform The Requirement:
 - You Have From God! Because:
 - You've Been Purified By The Blood Of Jesus Christ!
- Jesus Can Continue To:
 - Transform The Reputation:
 - You Have Before God! Because:
 - You've Been Justified By His Grace!
- And So - No Matter Where You Are At:
 - In Your Walk With The Lord:
 - Its Still - Only "The Beginning!"
 - Of His Miracle In Your Life!
- And - What Is This All For?
- For God's Glory!
 - In This Way - Jesus:
 - "Manifests Forth His Glory!"
 - And - Confirms All The Claims:
 - About Him!
 - But Also:
- For Our Good!
 - To Believe On Him:
 - More & More:
 - Even As "His Disciples Believed On Him!"

Conclusion:

1. Remember This Morning:
 - That - The New In Christ:
 - Is So Much Better:
 - Than The Old!
 - And - Its Only Going To Get Better:
 - When You Believe In Christ & Walk With Christ!
2. This First Sign That Jesus Did:
 - Proves That He Alone Can Transform:
 - The Relationship You Have With God!
 - The Requirement You Have From God! And:
 - The Reputation You Have Before God!
 - And His Transformation Is The Best!

*Grace Baptist Church
 Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362*

*www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com*