The First Miracle of Jesus

John 2:1-11

Last we walked with Jesus as He found His first five disciples. Today we will walk with Jesus to a wedding in Cana where He performs His first public miracle—Turning water to wine.

HUMOR: A drunk hillbilly was pulled over by a county mountie who observed his erratic driving on the highway. After checking his license the officer noticed a bottle on the front seat. "Whatcha got in that bottle on the seat next to ya?" The drunk slurred, "It's just water." The patrolman picked up the bottle and took a whiff of it's contents. "That ain't water. That's wine!" Then the drunk raised his hands and shouted, "Well, Praise de Lawd! He done did it again!"

This miracle parallels the first public miracle in the Old Testament—Moses turning the water into blood. It illustrates the contrast between Law and grace. "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

- Moses turned the water to blood—Speaks of judgment—Law brings judgment.
- Jesus turned the water to wine—Speaks of joy—Grace brings joy.

⇒READ TEXT: John 2:1-11

Every wino and boozer will use this passage to justify drinking alcoholic beverages, saying, "Jesus drank wine!" But that won't work. The wine Jesus made was NEW WINE—not fermented liquor. When Jesus served the "Lord's Table" the Scripture never uses the word "wine." It is always either "the cup" or "the fruit of the vine."

- "New wine is found in the CLUSTER," not in the bottle (Isa. 65:8).
- New wine is freshly squeezed juice from the grape (Gen. 40:11).

The Scripture clearly forbids drinking fermented wine:

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

- Proverbs 23:20-21—Be not among winebibbers...For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty...
- Proverbs 23:29-30—Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine...
- Habakkuk 2:15—Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also...
- Proverbs 31:4-5— "It is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes strong drink, lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

God warns you to stay away from wine lest you short-circuit your thinking process. Science has proven that every ounce of alcohol consumed permanently destroys ten thousand dendrites, or filaments, in the nerve cells of the brain. While each of us have millions of dendrites, I think it is fair to say that none of us has any to spare. If you're like me, you need all the dendrites you can get!

With all the Bible says about the dangers of drinking fermented wine, it would be inconsistent for Jesus to make 150 gallons of "hootch" so everyone at the wedding could get drunk.

I'm tired of seeing the damage alcohol inflicts upon children, families, and our society as a whole.

One Christian was challenged by a skeptic, "Do you really believe in miracles like Jesus changing water to wine?" The Christian answered, "I've seen a greater miracle than that. I have seen Jesus turn booze into milk for a drunkard's children after he gets saved."

- v. 1— The third day" is the third day from 1:35—
- First day (1:35-"...the next day" after the Levites showed up from Jerusalem);
- Second day (1:43— "the day following");
- "The third day" (2:1) i.e. the day after Christ's encounter with Nathanael.

- ► "Cana of Galilee" was a small town located a few miles north of Nazareth. It was the home town of Nathanael.
 - The scene of the marriage. A wedding is supposed to be a joyous celebration. Jewish weddings were a week long event!
 - Jesus and the disciples are called to the wedding. Possibly Nathanael was a friend of the bride or groom, or Mary, was a friend or relative of one of the parties, and knowing Jesus was in the area, she called for Him.
 - Christ's attendance shows He approves of marriage ceremony. Our society does not give much honor to marriage. Divorce rates climb while many just live together without being married. Society has further dishonored God's institution of marriage by legalizing the marriage of homosexuals. Sad! Disgraceful.
 - 2. The **scarcity** of the wine. To run out of wine was very embarrassing to the host of an oriental wedding. It created a crisis. The joy went out of the ceremony.
 - Mary took the problem to Jesus. If we would take our problems to Christ, we would save ourselves a lot of undo grief.
 - 3. The **satisfaction** of the guests. The story ends happily with wine supplied and the governor is pleased. When Jesus intervenes, the story always has a happy ending for those who walk with Him.
- ►What made the difference that turned the lack of wine into an abundance of wine... a crisis into a celebration... gloom into glory... failure into success... disappointment into delight... water into wine?

I. The PRESENCE of Jesus.

- A. INVITED— Jesus doesn't go where He is not welcomed.
 - ▶Where Christ is not invited, Christ will not bless.
- B. The presence of Jesus in your marriage will make a difference.
- C. When you bring Jesus into a crisis, He will make a difference.

II. The OBEDIENCE to Jesus.

- A. The CALL to obedience (v. 5). It is significant that these were Mary's last recorded words in the Bible.
 - 1. **Complete** obedience—"WHATSOEVER he saith..." without reservation. We cannot "pick and choose"—"WHATSOEVER..."
 - **Whatever** the Lord tells you do to, even if it doesn't seem to make sense, do it anyway! He knows what He is doing!
 - 2. **Corporate** obedience—"Whatsoever he saith unto YOU…" She was speaking to a group of servants. For the most part, the Lord's work is a cooperative effort of people working together. We are laborers TOGETHER with God.
 - ► God does not do what we can do. Christ made the water into wine—which man could not do. But man could fill the water pots with water and carry them to the governor.
 - ➡ The servants who had a part in putting in, also had a part in pouring out—They put in the water and they poured out the wine. <u>Likewise</u>, we give God what we have, and He gives us what He has!
- B. The COMPLIANCE in obedience— "...do it."
 - 1. The servants didn't argue with Jesus, or ask questions. They simply did what He asked them to do.
 - ▶ If the servants did not fill the pots with water, Jesus would not supply the wine.
 - 2. Once we know what God wants us to do, we need to act. Be a DOER of the word, not a hearer only.
- C. The CONTAINERS in obedience (vs. 6-7).
 - Firkin = approx. 9 gal.
 - Each water pot held 18 27 gal. [About 150 gal. total]
 - 144 lbs to 288 lbs. x six water pots = Over 1,000 lbs of water. A laborious task!
 - 1. They were CLEANED (cf. 2 Tim 2:21)
 - 2. They were FILLED (v. 7)— "They filled them up to the brim"). These servants did not just do enough to get by, rather they did as much as they could. There was nothing halfhearted

- about these guys! "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:23).
- 3. They were USED (v. 8).
- D. The COMPANIONSHIP of obedience to faith (Rom. 16:26—"...the obedience of faith").
 - 1. "Fill the waterpots with water" (v. 7). They needed wine, not water. Human reasoning would have been puzzled by Christ's command.
 - 2. These servants had no idea what Jesus was going to do. besus told them what to do one step at a time.
 - a) First, they were to fill the water pots.
 - b) Second, draw the water out and take it to the governor.
 - c) The miracle occurred as they faithfully followed each step.
 - ► Too often, we want to know what steps 2 through 5 are going to be before we follow step 1.
 - 3. We sing "Trust and Obey."
 - 4. Faith is not faith until it is applied to performance.
 - "Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God, trusts God; and he that trusts God, obeys God." —Charles Spurgeon
 - "The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are at opposite sides of the same coin." —A.W. Tozer.

III. The PROVISION of Jesus. (v. 8).

- A. The MIRACLE—The miracle occurred when the servants delivered the "water" to the governor. The water was turned to wine without ceremony... Without hocus-pocus. As the water was poured out it could be seen it was changed to wine!
 - The process was not known to the guests. However, "the servants which drew the water knew" this was a miracle performed by Jesus!

- B. The ABUNDANCE—Turning 150 gallons of water into wine meant Christ provided more than an ample supply of wine for the wedding feast. When Christ blesses it is "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).
- C. The TASTE— When the governor tasted the wine he called it "good wine." The truth is, it could not be any better since Jesus made it! Everything Jesus makes is THE BEST!
 - 1. The world gives its best first, then goes downhill.
 - 2. Walking with Jesus gets better everyday—"Everyday with Jesus is sweeter than the day before."
 - The more you walk in the world the worse it gets.
 - 3. For the Christian, the best is yet to come. For the wicked, the best is this earth; eternity will be a horror story.

SUMMATION: A picture of salvation:

- 1. The unsaved Like the water pot of stone... cold, empty, and lifeless.
- 2. The receiving of water— A type of the Word of God (Eph. 5:26). The sinner hears the preaching of God's word and receives Christ by faith.
 - This would seem foolish to those at the wedding, but not to God (1 Cor. 1:21).
- 3. The water is turned to wine—The empty pots are now filled with the joy of the Lord.

Jesus was invited to the marriage and He came. We never hear of an invitation given to Him which He refused.

Have you invited Christ into your marriage, your home, and what is even more important, have you invited him into your heart? (John 1:12; Rev. 3:21).