

Water Into Wine

John 2:1-12

Thought for the Day: We can trust the Lord to abundantly supply all our needs.

John 2:1-12 is the account of the first of seven "signs" (miracles) performed by the Lord Jesus Christ and recorded in the Gospel of John. These miracles demonstrate His power and authority over nature, death, sin, and evil, as well as His great love and concern for the needs of people. They reveal that He is the promised Messiah of the OT, the Son of God. "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30-31)

1 On the third day...

- The third day after Jesus called Philip and Nathanael to follow Him (1:43-51).
- The seventh day of Jesus' first week of public ministry (1:19-2:12).

...there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

- Mary and Jesus' brothers were invited to the wedding. (Cp. vs. 12)
- Cana was nine miles north of Nazareth where Jesus' family lived.
- Jesus had four brothers: James, Joseph, Simon and Judas; and at least two sisters. (Matthew 13:55-56)

2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

- A Jewish wedding celebration could last as long as a week.
- It is a wise decision to invite Jesus Christ to your wedding and your marriage!

3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

- "Running out of wine meant more than embarrassment; it broke the strong unwritten laws of hospitality... Mary was probably in a position of responsibility, since she was one of the first to know that the wine was gone. She told Jesus of the predicament, perhaps expecting him to do something about it." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
- Mary is a good example for us: When we have a need, the first person we should turn to is Jesus!
- "Mary's simple action illustrates that receiving our Lord's filling and healing begins with recognizing our need. For Mary, it was easy — the wine was gone. It may be more difficult for us to identify our problem. But left to our own resources, we will run dry. Life is too complex, its problems too challenging, and our own strength too limited to allow us to cope without help. Defining the exact need may not be as crucial as admitting our incompleteness. But recognizing our emptiness before Christ will allow him to work a miracle in us. He will apply his powerful resources to our lives. Have you expressed to God your lack that only he can fill? Are you willing to do what he asks of you?"
- "Those who believe in Jesus but run into situations they cannot understand must continue to trust that he will work in the best way. Real trust focuses on the source rather than on the shape of the help that will be supplied. We trust that God will help, not knowing how the help will come." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
- Mary may have wanted Jesus to reveal that He was the Messiah.

4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

- "Woman" – a title of respect. Jesus is respectfully telling Mary that it was not yet time, according to God's timetable, to reveal Himself to Israel as the Messiah.
- As His public ministry was beginning, Jesus' priorities were now going to be different from what Mary had experienced over the years. He was now about His Heavenly Father's business, according to His Father's schedule.
- It is important for us to learn that God operates according to His plan and His time schedule, not ours.

5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

- Mary was confident that Jesus could and would do something to alleviate the situation.
- These are the last recorded words of Mary in the Bible. They are appropriate for us to keep in mind as we read God's Word: "Do whatever He tells you."

6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.

- Jesus provided somewhere between 120-180 gallons of choice wine for the wedding.
- This miracle was a revelation of who Jesus was and a picture of the rich salvation He came to offer. God gives us His grace in lavish abundance!
- "Jesus did not require the help of the servants nor the filled jars in order to perform his miracle. The filling of the jars could itself have been part of the miracle. But as Jesus demonstrated repeatedly in dealing with people, God honors us with significant roles in his work. We are not indispensable, but graciously included." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

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 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."

- It was customary to serve the best wine first, then, when people's taste buds were less sensitive, the poorer quality wine.
- "People look everywhere but to God for excitement and meaning. For some reason, they expect God to be dull and lifeless. Just as the wine Jesus made was the best, so life in him is better than life on our own. Why wait until everything else runs out before trying God? Don't save the best until last." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.