

## John 2:1-12: Jesus' First Recorded Miracle of His Ministry

### – Keys to remembering why it was important not to run out of wine during wedding:

1. ) Weddings usually lasted for seven days, during which time food and wine were well supplied. To run out of either of them implied a thoughtless host or a host that couldn't afford it. Running out of wine would bring dishonor upon the family name.
2. ) Marriage process took at least a year in that culture, from signing a contract, betrothal, consummation, and the wedding ceremony.
3. ) Since a wedding honors God, who created the life long bond between a man and a woman, as well as the description of Jesus being the church's bridegroom, it can be presumed that He performed this miracle for this reason, among others that will be discussed below.

### (vs' 1-2): Someone in the wedding knew Mary and Jesus.

- Notice Jesus and Mary were invited, which means it may have been a relative of Jesus or a family friend.
- Notice the author John's emphasis on Jesus by calling Mary “the mother of Jesus”.

### *1.) Do we emphasize Jesus in our own lives, instead of ourselves?*

### (vs' 3-5): Mary approached Jesus with a crisis:

- “Woman” was a title of respect and a polite, kind expression \*\*John 19:26\*\*
- Jesus was committed to the Father's Will and His time of glory was in the Father's hands.
- “My hour has not yet come”: Mentioned 5x's in the book of John, referring to God's Will and timing when the Savior will be revealed. (*John 7:30; 12:23; 27; 13:1; 17:1*).
- Mary trusted Jesus' decision, regardless of the outcome. She knew He would do what was right (in-line with God's Will).

### *2.) Do we seek the Father's Will or our own?*

### *3.) Do we trust the Lord or ourselves and do we leave the results to Him?*

### (vs' 6-11): Jesus performs His first recorded miracle

- Wine (Gk: *oinos*): symbolized fertility and well-being in the OT and was an important part of the

culture. Its' misuse was also a potential source of numerous evils (*Proverbs 20:1; 23:31-35*). In the NT, the vine and vineyards appeared frequently in Jesus' parables (*Matt. 20:1-16; John 15:1-11*), yet drunkenness is forbidden (*Ephesians 5:18*), and addiction to wine is unacceptable in an elder or deacon (*1 Timothy 3:3; 8; Titus 2:3*). It is also used for medicinal purposes (*1 Timothy 5:23*) where Paul tells Timothy to drink a little wine for his stomach's sake, and wine is a means to healing (*Luke 10:34*).

**Symbolically**, wine is used negatively in Revelation, referring to the wine and cup of God's wrath (*14:10; 16:19; 19:15*). Positively, wine serves as a token of hope for the coming celebration for all believers at Jesus' return and an abundant life with Him. **A picture of this coming new age is given in the creation of wine at the wedding in Cana.**

In Biblical times the wine (fermented grapes) was served at celebrations and usually diluted by 2-10 parts water to each part of wine. Wine was made using a much simpler process back then. Today, wine is created using sugar, chemicals, and other additives. With a cultured GMO yeast used and late-harvest grapes that hold a higher sugar level, people are able to produce an alcohol level of 12-20%. The main ingredient making the difference is modernized yeast. In ancient time, more natural yeast could only create levels of around 4-11%. Because there were no fridges in Biblical times, the focus was more on preventing fermentation. The various processes used to keep food and drink fresh resulted in lower alcohol levels too.

**Unfortunately, people today drink alcohol for the wrong reasons / intentions (have fun for sinful reasons, escape reality and their problems, clouds their judgment which can have dangerous consequences). People today drink many other forms of alcohol also that has no relation to wine and what it was intended for in the Bible. ALOT OF PEOPLE LIKE TO DRINK FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS AND TRY TO JUSTIFY DRINKING IN ANY WAY THEY CAN JUST TO SUPPORT THEIR SINFUL LIFESTYLE!!!**

- (vs. 6) Stone water jars (pots) were for cleansing/washing ***\*\*John 3:25; Mark 7:3-4; Matt. 15:1-2\*\****. Water pots were used to cleanse a Jew from defilement ***\*\*Numbers 19\*\****.
- (vs' 7-8) The servants filled the jars, drew the wine, and delivered it. Jesus (who is God) only used His Words to make this miracle happen. **Another example of how powerful God's Word is!!** ***\*\*Genesis 1\*\****
- Jesus used servants to deliver His miracle to the Master of the Feast. Neither the Master of the

Feast nor the Jews knew the wine came out of purification jars, which would have been unacceptable to them.

- Jesus stayed humble and discrete as His time had not yet come. He did not announce Himself or show the people who He was. His actions were dependent on the Will of the Father.
- Jesus didn't ask the servants, he told them and they obeyed without question or hesitancy.

**4.) *Do we obey God and His Will and are we patient to listen?***

- (vs' 9-10) It was Jewish tradition to serve the good wine (which ran out) first and then the poor wine after everyone was full of drink and food. Jesus saved the best wine for last!
- Significance of Jesus' miracle also means His way (Christianity) is an advance over the way things were (Judaism). Remember wine symbolizes his return and our abundant life to come.
- (vs. 11) Jesus manifested (revealed) His glory (divine quality) through this miracle to His disciples, which deepened their faith.

**5.) *Were you aware of the meaning and significance of this miracle prior to this study?***

**(vs. 12): *Jesus went to Capernaum with His mother, brothers, and disciples.***

- Capernaum was located on the northern end of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus moved from Nazareth to Capernaum when He began His public ministry. Jesus worked many miracles here **\*\*Matt. 8:14-15; Mark2:1-12; Luke 7:1-10; John 4:46-54\*\*** and delivered a sermon in **\*\*John 6\*\***.
- Capernaum was proud and didn't respond to Jesus. As a result, Jesus cursed it **\*\*Luke 10:15; 12:48\*\***
- ***God not only loves His children, which includes discipline, but He also punishes those who refuse to obey and turn their backs on Him.***