

- I) V1 INTRO: On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee and the mother of
- II) V11 John makes it clear that this is the *beginning of signs*
It was probably the first miracle that He ever performed publicly
- III) Early in church history, books were written that were not accepted as inspired
The gospel of Peter, gospel of Mary, the Acts of Peter, Acts of John, Acts of Paul
One source stated there were around 27 NT apocryphal books, perhaps more
- IV) Example: The Gospel of Thomas is one of those books, written around 185 AD
This uninspired book contains traditions and factual errors concerning Jesus
The text describes Jesus as more like a nature god who does mean things to people
- V) It fabricates such miracles as breathing life into birds fashioned from clay
Jesus curses a boy, who then becomes a corpse
He curses a boy who falls dead and his parents become blind
He resurrects a friend who fell from a roof
He heals a man who chopped his foot with an axe
He stretched a board that was short, for carpentry
Harvested 100 bushels of wheat from a single seed
- VI) Why were these books rejected
None of the writers of the books claimed to be inspired by God
They contain historical, geographical, and moral errors and were rejected
- VII) QUOTE: The early church leaders in the 3rd and 4th Centuries generally distinguished between canonical works and those that were not canonical but 'useful,' or 'good for teaching,' though never relegating any of the final 27 books to the latter category. One aim with establishing the canon was to capture only those works that were held to have been written by the Apostles, or their close associates
- VIII) Lu 1:1-4 Inasmuch as *many have* taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.
- IX) IN TOTAL: There are at 37 miracles performed by Jesus that are recorded in the Gospels
OF COURSE: There were many more works done that did not get recorded

- I) John makes it clear that this is the first, or the beginning of signs performed by Jesus
Jn 21:25 There are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.
- II) John refers to this as the *beginning* of signs performed by Jesus and gives two reasons
- III) **FIRST:** He performed signs to manifest, or reveal His *glory* (V11)
This was to reveal that He was not simply a man, but God in the flesh
2 Co 4:6 It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of *the glory of God* in the face of Jesus Christ.
- IV) **SECOND:** He performed signs so that His disciples would trust (believe) in Him
These works were not intended to stimulate curiosity, or to simply demonstrate power, but rather *to point* to Jesus and to provoke people to believe in Him *as their Savior*
- V) This is the purpose of any miracle done in the name of God
Jn 20:30 Truly Jesus did many other *signs* in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book, but these are written that *you may believe* that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
- VI) If someone claims to perform miracles, there is a very important question to answer
Who receives the glory for the miracle performed
The person, some other power, or Jesus Christ
- VII) **THIS SIGN:** Was not intended to provoke people to argue about whether they can drink
This is not permission to drink alcohol or to have alcohol served at your wedding!
- VIII) **MY PHILOSOPHY:** Is broken down into a few questions
Does drinking alcohol bring glory to the Lord?
1 Co 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, *do all* to the glory of God.
- IX) Would my drinking alcohol cause anybody to stumble: encourage addiction
1 Co 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.
1 Co 10:24 Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.
Ro 14:21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.
- X) Does drinking alcohol develop my reputation as a godly man

- I) **Public drunkenness in Israel was a disgrace and was to be avoided for various reasons**
FIRST: Because it brought shame to the person who was drunk
Pr 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

- II) **SECOND: Because intoxication impairs judgment**
Pr 31:4-5 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.
Rev 1:5-6 (Jesus) loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

- III) **THIRD: Because drunkenness destroys your life**
Who has ever become better because they are alcoholics
Pr 23:29-35 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

- IV) **V1-2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee and the mother of Jesus**
Cana of Galilee: A village around 9 miles N of Nazareth: mentioned 3 times in John
Jesus' attendance gives the seal of His approval of *Marriage* in general

- V) **NOTICE: And the mother of Jesus was there along with Jesus and *His disciples***
The disciples would be Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, Nathanael, and possibly John

- VI) **Mary, the mother of Jesus, is only mentioned three times in this gospel**
She is mentioned by name here, and in Jn 19:25, and is alluded to in Jn 6:42
As we look at the biblical record of Mary, not much is known of her

- VII) **THERE IS MUCH TRADITION: Related to Mary that is simply and sadly non scriptural**
Immaculate Conception: That she was conceived and born without a sin nature and filled with sanctifying grace: she was free from personal or hereditary sin: it became official dogma in 1954
She is thought to possess perpetual virginity
She is thought to have been assumed into heaven with body and soul: 1870

- I) **She is called the Mediatrix: meaning she is interceding for people when they pray to her**
She is called co-redemptrix, meaning she participates in the salvation process and did so by consenting to bear Jesus
She is called Queen of heaven: from her union with Christ she attains a radiant eminence transcending that of any other creature; from her union with Christ she receives the royal right to dispose of the treasures of the Divine Redeemer's Kingdom; from her union with Christ finally is derived the inexhaustible efficacy of her maternal intercession before the Son and His Father

- II) **ALL OF THIS: Is tradition derived from sources other than a genuine study of the bible**
In fact, scripture does not give much information about Mary

- III) **From piecing together the verses that mention her we are able to get a small snapshot**

- IV) **FIRST: Immaculate Conception: She possessed a sin nature, as do all humans (Ro 3:23)**
Ro 5:12 through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because *all sinned*
Pr 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

- V) **In Lu 1:47 She said My spirit has rejoiced in God *my Savior***
If she were without sin, she could have been the perfect sacrifice for sin

- VI) **SECOND: She did not live in perpetual virginity**
She was a young unmarried virgin when she conceived Jesus Lu 1:27, 34
After marriage, and the birth of Jesus, she had normal marital relations with Joseph
Mt 1:25 (Joseph) did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called his name Jesus

- VII) **THIRD: Mary had other children after giving birth to Jesus (Jn 2:12)**
Mt 13:55-56 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters *are they not all with us?*

- VII) **Scripture does not teach that she was assumed body and soul in to heaven**
Earliest church traditions say she died in Jerusalem, but in the 7th century it was widely held she had been assumed into heaven

- IX) **SHE DOES NOT INTERCEDE: Because only Jesus intercedes on our behalf**
Heb 7:25 He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to *make intercession* for them.
1 Ti 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men the man Christ Jesus
- I) **SHE IS NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX: Jesus did not need help to redeem mankind**

Heb 1:3 (Jesus), who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had *by Himself* purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

- II) **OBVIOUSLY:** Heaven needs no reigning Queen, as there is only the King
- III) **She was at the cross when Jesus died (Jn 19:25), and is last mentioned in Ac 1:4**
- IV) **V3 And when they ran out of wine the mother of Jesus said to Him They have no wine**
- V) **Marriage ceremonies were a time of great celebration**
There would be a procession of the bridegroom and his friends to the bride's house: Often this would occur at night, by torchlight. At her house speeches and blessings would occur, and the procession would then return to the groom's house. A wedding banquet would be held, possibly a religious ceremony would be performed and then a prolonged feast would begin (up to a week!)
- VI) **On this occasion the wine had already been used up before the feast ended**
This was a great embarrassment to the hosts for failing to be hospitable to their guests
They may have been poor and could not afford the best wine for their guests
- VII) **V3 This is where Mom steps in to inform her Son: They have no wine**
Mary knew that Jesus was Messiah, for many years observing His words and works
- VIII) **On the night He was born, the shepherds had shared what had happened that night**
It caused people to marvel at the things the shepherds told them
Lu 2:19 Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart
- IX) **Later, when Jesus was twelve at Passover He remained behind when His parents left**
He went in to the temple and sat with the rabbis listening to them and asking questions
His parents came to take Him home with them, telling Him He had worried them
- X) **After He said He must be about His Father's business, they did not understand**
Lu 2:51 He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart
- XI) **She may have been aware of what the Baptist had said about Him, the Lamb of God**
He was now preaching repentance, and people were beginning to come to hear Him
She knew there was a need, that He did not money to buy supplies, but could help
- I) **She encourages Him to meet their need**

Up until then, Jesus had not performed any miracles

- II) V4 Jesus said to her *Woman*, what does *your* concern have to do with Me? My hour
This is a gentle reminder to His mother that she is not the one directing His ministry
He was thirty, had left His mother's home and was no longer under her authority
- III) She was not to direct Him: That is to be left up to His Father
- IV) V4 NOTICE: My *hour* has not yet come (It is not My time to act)
Hour is used various times in the gospel (7:30, 8:20, 12:23, 13:1,17:1)
From the beginning, He is looking at His purpose: to glorify the Father
- V) V5 His mother said to the servants Whatever He says to you, *do it*
Commentators believe the way she speaks shows the marriage is for a family member
She obviously expects something to happen when they obey Jesus' commands
- VI) This is great advice! Whatever Jesus says we must do
- VII) THE FIRST THING HE SAYS: We must be born again!
REPENT: Mt 4:17 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
RECEIVE: Mt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
- VIII) V6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone
This water was used for purification: *Ritual cleansing of the hands*
Mk 7:3-4 For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.
- IX) V7-8 Jesus said to them Fill the waterpots with water and they filled them up to the brim
After filling the pots with water, they took a sample to the head waiter
He was in charge of the entertainment, provided the food, gave directions to guests
- X) V9-10 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine and did not
What do we see here?
Jesus not only rescued the people from embarrassment, but also provided *abundantly*
Eph 3:20 (He) is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that works in us
- I) *SECOND*: The waterpots used for purification were made of stone, like people's hearts

Ritual religion will never satisfy, as it is not sufficient for real needs

Ezek 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

- II) **THIRD:** Wine in the NT can be used as a type of the Holy Spirit
Eph 5:18 do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit
Jesus provides abundantly the New Wine of the Holy Spirit
- III) **FOURTH:** The Master of the feast represents those who appreciate the New Wine
Not everyone does because some want to remain in their own religious beliefs
Lu 5:39 No one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says *The old is better*
- IV) **V11-12 THIS:** Beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory
He now moved to the city of Capernaum
This became His headquarters for ministry in the north
He stayed a short time, and then went south for the Passover (V13)