

John 2:1-11 A wedding in Cana – The First Sign

2:1-11 – The sign performed

2:12-4:42 – The Sign Illustrated

- The cleansing of the temple (2:12-22)
- The new birth (2:23-3:36)
- The living water (4:1-42)

2:1-2 – *And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; (2) and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding.*

The mother of Jesus – Mary is never called by name in the Gospel of John but she is referred to as Jesus' mother nine times.

2:3-4 – *And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." (4) And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."*

Woman – This was not a derogatory expression but a common polite expression (19:26).

What do I have to do with you? – Literally, *"What to me, and to you?"*

My hour has not come – Literally, *"Not yet has come my hour."*

Three times *"not yet"* (2:4, 7:30, 8:20)

Three times *"my hour has come"* (12:23, 13:1, 17:1)

2:5 *His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."*

Mary may not have fully understood Jesus' words about his *"hour"* but she fully trusted her son! Her statement to the servants was an act of faith.

2:6 – *Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.*

Note Matthew 15:1-2 and Mark 7:3-4. The Jews washed often to cleanse themselves from the defilement of contact with Gentiles and other ritually defiling things. There is a spiritual picture contrasting the old way of law (ceremonial water and cleansing) with the new way of grace (wine and inward joy).

2:10 – *"Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely (methysko), then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now."*

Methysko – This word occurs six other times in the N.T. and is translated as "be drunken" five times and "be made drunk" the other.

"The fact that Jesus created something that people could abuse should not surprise us. Humans have consistently abused God's good gifts. Fortunately, that does not keep God from giving them." Thomas Constable

Note verses like Psalm 140:15, Proverbs 3:9-10

For the balance: Proverbs 20:1, 21:17, 23:20, 29-35, Eph. 5:18

1 Timothy 3:8, Titus 2:3,

Wine in the Scripture

-Noah is the first example of someone becoming drunk from drinking wine – Genesis 9:20-21

-Wine is the drink that cheers God and men – Judges 9:13

-Wine makes man's heart glad – Psalm 104:15

-Fullness of wine is seen as a blessing from God – Genesis 27:28

-A drink offering of wine was presented with the daily sacrifice – Exodus 29:40-41

However, there are many warnings against over-indulgence like Isaiah 5:11, Proverbs 20:1, *Proverbs* 23:20-21.

Proverbs 23:29-35 paints a sad picture of the one who depends on wine.

Likewise, in the New Testament – Romans 13:13, 1 Timothy 3:8 Titus 1:7, 1 Timothy 5:23

Scripture does not teach 'total abstinence' but has clear warnings about drinking wine or strong drink.

Note the contrast of attitude between John the Baptist and Jesus in Matthew 11:18-19

Chiastic Structure in John 2:1-11

A (2:1-2) – Cana of Galilee

B (2:3-4) – Not yet

C (2:5-6) – Do what He tells you

C' (2:7-8) – Fill the jars with water

B' (2:9-10) – Now

A' (2:11-12) – Cana of Galilee

2:11 – *This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.*

-*This was not a public miracle. His disciples saw and believed.*

-*Jesus used willing servants to help accomplish the miracle.*

-*Jesus demonstrated the power of God to transform things from one condition to another.*

-*This miracle foreshadows the new birth. The old life is changed to a new life of joy.*