

Signs
Water to Wine
John 2:1-12

July 9, 2017 pm

HDBC

Each gospel writer had a particular purpose in writing his account of the life of Christ. Each had certain perspective and goal. John gives us his reason for writing in John 20:30-31. Listen to his words.

Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that, believing you may have life in His name.

John made it crystal clear in his opening words in chapter 1 that his purpose was to reveal the deity of Jesus. To show that he truly was the Son of God. Divine Savior of the world. His desire was to lead his readers to salvation.

Unlike Matthew and Luke, John skips the details of the birth of Jesus. He does write of the incarnation in John 1:1-18, but he does so not from the historical perspective, but from a theological perspective. He then moves quickly into a presentation of the public ministry of the Lord. It seems that John has **no time for lengthy introductions**. He has a story to tell, and it is one that has eternal significance.

Read the text: John 2:1-12

Verse 11 of our text is a summary verse and it provides a clear outline for this message. It defines four things that are revealed in this passage. He also indicated that this was the first or beginning of the signs.

It was a miracle, but John doesn't call it one. In fact there are seven miracles recorded in the book of John other than the resurrection of Jesus. John calls these miracles **signs** because they are pointers to Jesus. **Like a road sign that tells the driver which way to go**, these miracles point us in the direction of Jesus. They give evidence and testimony to the truth of who Jesus Christ was.

Semeion - A sign, mark. That by which a person or thing is distinguished from others. Circumcision was a **sign** of the covenant between God and his people. Used of the miracles performed in the OT by prophets. Proved they were men of God.

These seven miracles set Jesus apart from normal humanity. They confirm John's message that Jesus is really God in human flesh. They validate and authenticate the message. They point to the deity of Jesus.

1. The Setting

Verse 11 tells us three things that help us with the setting.

A. Cana of Galilee

Word means "nest." **Of Galilee** to distinguish it from another Cana in Syria. Located a few miles north of Nazareth. Home town of Nathaniel.(21:2)

B. Third Day

Possible that John is referring to chronology. Third day after conversation with Nathaniel? Could refer to the third day of the week, Tuesday. In Israel 1/3 of the weddings are still performed on this day. Only day of creation on which God two times declared "it is good." Jews see it as a day which is doubly blessed.

C. During a Wedding

Marriage feast was occasion of great joy. It was one of the few times in a family's life when they really went all out. It was a great time for them to forget their troubles and to celebrate. Festivities often lasted seven days. It was in one of these celebrations that Jesus performed his first miracle.

Max Lucado, in his book, When God Whispers Your Name points out how surprising it seems that the very first place Jesus took his first recruits was to a wedding. Not to the desert to fast and pray as Andrew and John might have thought. Not to the temple as Peter might have thought. Not to some remote retreat as would have pleased Nathaniel and Philip.

No, Jesus first went to a wedding. Why did He do that?

Answer is in verse two. He was invited. That may not sound like a profound statement, but it is important. It tells me that Jesus was used to rubbing shoulders where the people were. He was one of them, one of us. He was comfortable in the family celebrations and they were comfortable with him.

He went to great pains to be just as human as you and I. **He didn't need to study, but he went to the synagogue. He did not need to earn a living, but worked with his hands.** He did not need the fellowship of others but he interacted where they were.

2. The Sign

He turned water to wine.

A. The Details

Important that the host family have everything in order. They began to run out of wine before the party was scheduled to end. This would have been a great embarrassment to them. It was a serious, social blunder. Jesus' mom was aware of the situation and asked him to help.

Was she asking for a miracle? Not sure. Maybe she felt this was a good time for him to do his thing. She knew what the angel had said before his birth. She knew there was something different about him. She knew about his baptism and that he was moving out to begin his ministry. Why not start with a miracle?

He rebuked her for assuming that he was simply there to fix problems, etc. He was moving toward His great mission in life. She was beginning to feel the sword pierce her heart.

But she was persistent, telling the servants to do whatever he told them. She was leaving it all in his hands. If he wanted to help he could. She had confidence in Him. Jesus performed a miracle. Turned water to wine, thus protecting the family from embarrassment.

Six water pots. Ceremonial hand washing. From the size of the pots we can conclude that this was no small affair. They expected 500-800 guests. The fact that they all needed to be filled suggests that they all had been emptied either partially or completely.

B. The Miracle (3 things about this miracle)

1. Miracle of Compassion

Jesus was not setting out to establish himself as a great miracle-worker, but simply responding to the need of the moment. The need was for wine, so wine was provided.

2. Miracle of Comparison

Better than that which went before it. Subtle hint of what it was to be like in everything that Jesus would do. **He would always do it better.** The New Covenant which He was bringing to humanity would be far superior to the old. Out with the old and in with the new. **Water of purification represented the old way.** Wine represented the new covenant.

3. Miracle of Creation

Jesus took water and created wine. This is the heart of the matter. That reveals an important truth. In math, if $A = B$, and $B = C$, then $A = C$.

God is the only one who can create. Jesus created. Therefore Jesus must be God. He is divine.

3. The Glory

Manifested His Glory. This is the same glory which John wrote about in 1:14. This miracle was a revelation that Jesus was different. It pointed to His glory. For the most part His glory was hidden, veiled in human flesh. Transfiguration it shown forth. in this signs it can be seen by those who have eyes to see.

4. The Faith

Remember John's purpose? To reveal Jesus as the Son of God with the desire that people would believe. John is pointing out that the disciples were led to a faith in Christ through this revelation of who He was. Because of this miracle or sign, **their faith was brought to a higher plane**. They already had believed, but their faith is now strengthened.

Point is that Jesus' action in this sign led to faith in those who witnessed it. That's the message that resonates throughout John' Gospel. John 3:16, John 6:14 etc. His message is that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to get to Heaven. Story of grace and faith. Salvation comes by **grace** through **faith**.