

John 2:1-11

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. ³ The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

⁵ But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, ⁸ he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

⁹ When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. ¹⁰ "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

¹¹ This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Background

Jesus may have been invited to this wedding since Cana was Nathanael's hometown. The wine running out was a major social embarrassment in that day. When Jesus' mother asked Him to intervene, His response may sound abrupt. However, this reflected His divine mission, not disrespect. The Lord's point was that He was subject to the will of His heavenly Father, not the will and schedule of His human earthly mother.

Jesus turned between 120 to 180 gallons of water into wine. The miracle underscores that wine itself isn't sinful, but sin arises from its misuse. The significant quantities likely reflected a large, week-long wedding celebration. John 2:11 calls this Jesus' first miracle, debunking apocryphal childhood miracle stories. This sign revealed His glory and deepened His disciples' faith.

Teaching Points

1. God puts His stamp of approval on marriage and weddings.

Jesus' presence at the wedding in Cana affirms God's approval of marriage, as established in Genesis. Marriage is between one man and one woman in a lifelong union. It involves a public

covenant, not just private vows. Scripture emphasizes that marriage should be declared before God, witnesses, and civil authorities (Romans 13). A wedding publicly celebrates this covenant.

2. Judaism could never produce the joy of Christianity.

Jesus' use of six Jewish ceremonial water jars in His first miracle was intentional and symbolic. The jars represented Judaism and the burdensome Old Testament laws. Wine is a symbol of joy. Without the miracle, the jars couldn't produce any wine. Jesus showed that true joy comes through Him, not through the old system. He didn't discard the jars but transformed the water into wine, illustrating that Christianity fulfills, rather than replaces, the Old Testament.

Application

1. Invite Jesus to your wedding.

Jesus was invited to the wedding at Cana. Likewise, couples should invite Him into their marriages, making Him the foundation of a Christ-centered relationship and home. A biblical marriage involves two believers united in the Lord, reflecting the love between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:25). When centered on Christ, a marriage can become a powerful witness and ministry.

2. Come as you are.

In this miracle, Jesus didn't require the potentially dirty water jars to be cleaned first. He simply said, "*Fill the jars with water.*" Then He transformed the water into wine. This illustrates a key truth of salvation: Jesus doesn't ask us to "fix ourselves" before coming to Him. We come as we are. The filling up with water may symbolize God's Word, which plays a vital role in salvation. Our role in evangelism is to fill others with the Word, and then Jesus can perform the miracle of salvation. It's a powerful reminder of God's grace and the simple call to "Come as you are."