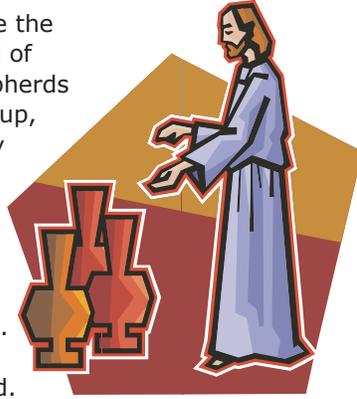




Jesus Turns Water into Wine

John 2:1-11

Thirty years had passed since the angels sang about the arrival of the baby Messiah to the shepherds near Bethlehem. Jesus grew up, it would seem, just like every other Jewish boy. But there was much more, and the time had come for others to find out just who He was. This week we read about the first miracle Jesus performed. Jesus performed miracles to show people that He was God.



Day #1: John, the Baptist

John was Jesus' cousin. He was a special person, sent by God to announce that the Messiah, or Savior, was coming. He told people to repent, or turn away from their sin. All those who believed in John's message were baptized by John. That is why he became known to us as "John, the Baptist."

John was three months older than Jesus. John was filled with God's Spirit from the moment he was born. When John grew up and began preaching, people could tell he was special. Some people thought that he was the Messiah. But John told them he was not the Messiah. He said the Messiah was much greater than he was (John 1:27).

When Jesus was about 30 years old, John saw Jesus walking beside the Jordan River and announced:

† *"Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world! This is the One I was talking about. I said, 'A Man who comes after me is more important than I am. That's because He existed before I was born.'... I give witness that this is the Son of God."* - John 1:29b-30, 34b

Several of John's followers heard John say this, and they started to follow Jesus (John 1:37). They ran to tell their friends and relatives about Jesus.

* If everyone on earth had a terrible disease, and you found the cure, whom would you share it with? Your family? Your friends? Everyone? The men with John knew that everyone on earth did have a terrible, fatal disease called SIN. As soon as they heard that the CURE, the Savior, had come, they ran to tell others.

Have you told anyone about the Savior lately? Pray for God to give you the opportunity to tell someone about Jesus.

Day #2: Wedding Feast

Have you ever been to a wedding? What did the bride and groom wear? After the wedding ceremony, you may have had cake and punch. How long did the wedding celebration last? In Bible times, wedding celebrations could last for days! People would come to the happy event, and the couple's family would serve good food and a special drink called wine.

Three days after John's announcement about Jesus, there was a wedding in Galilee. Jesus was there with His followers, called disciples. Jesus' mother, Mary, was also there. It seems she may have been helping with the feast. For some reason, the wedding couple did not have enough wine to serve to their guests.

† *When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They have no more wine."* - John 2:3

Mary saw with earthly eyes. She saw a nice wedding that might be ruined when the drink ran out. She could not understand how this simple wedding fit into the HUGE plan of God. Mary had no idea that this day, at this wedding, Jesus would begin to reveal who He was. This was the next step in God's eternal plan to save all people from the punishment of their sin.

Notice what Mary did **not** say. She didn't ask Jesus to make wine. She didn't come up with her own solution and then ask Jesus to fulfill it. She simply told Jesus the need, and waited to see what He would do.

* This is a great pattern for us to follow! When you have a need, do not fret and worry about the best way for God to fulfill it. He can do SO much more than we can ever imagine (Ephesians 3:20). And He knows all things - all things in our present and our future. Simply present your need to the Lord, and ask Him to take care of it in the way that is best - His best, in His plan.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. - Philippians 4:6

Day #3: Simply Obey

Jesus had a way with words. When Mary mentioned the lack of wedding wine to Jesus, He respectfully told her, "My time has not yet come." (John 2:4) By this He meant He would not perform a miracle that everyone could see.

Still hopeful, Mary instructed the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5 NLT)

Day #3 continued:

There were six stone water jars nearby that had been used by the guests to wash themselves.

 *Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the top. - John 2:7*

The servants obeyed. They carried enough water in from the nearby well to fill the jars to the top. As the fresh water mixed with the dirty wash water, the servants must have wondered what Jesus would do next.

Then He told them, "Now dip some out. Take it to the person in charge of the dinner." They did what He said. - John 2:8

How do you think the servants felt, dipping out a cup of dirty water to bring to their master? Still, recognizing the authority of Jesus, they did what He commanded. Much to their amazement, the water had turned into wine!

How could the simple, obedient, servants have known that on that day, they would be part of a miracle?!

 Obey. No matter how ordinary the task, simply obey what God instructs you to do. Obeying is of the utmost importance to God (1 Samuel 15:22). When you obey God, you stay in step with His plan. When you obey, God will use you in amazing ways.

Day #4: Fine Wine

Have you ever stopped to look at your bath water after you have taken a bath? Next time, take a moment to look at the water and think of the jars at the wedding feast.

The Jewish people had to obey many rules about washing themselves before, and after, they ate. It was part of the law they followed. The washing was a reminder of how sinful and unclean they were. But Jesus took this dirty water, and turned it into something wonderful. Washing was a chore (a symbol of the law); drinking fine wine was a pleasure (a symbol of grace).

So, how did the dirty-well-water-touched-by-the-Son-of-God taste?

 *The man in charge drank some of the water that had now turned into wine...He called the bridegroom over and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then after the guests have had plenty, the other wine is served. **But you have kept the best until last!**" - John 2:9-10 CEV*

Jesus not only cleaned what was once dirty, but He made it into something better than what human hands could make! Jesus transformed the dirty water into the BEST wine! The man in charge of the feast, the "top chef", was incredibly impressed with the quality of this

Day #4 continued:

wine.

And how much fine wine was there? Six giant wash-jars full! Jesus always blesses in abundance!

 It is deep within Jesus' nature to turn bad things into good. Just as He turned dirty hand-washing water into the best tasting wine, He can turn anyone's life into a beautiful thing! Sometimes when we look at ourselves or other people, we see the "dirt" and problems. When Jesus touches a person's life, they become clean and they receive a new life (Matthew 8:3). Jesus can turn anyone's life into something wonderful when they trust and obey Him.

Day #5: First Sign

John, the writer of the book where we find this event, tells us that this was the first miracle that Jesus performed.

 *That was the first of Jesus' miraculous signs. He did it at Cana in Galilee. Jesus showed His glory by doing it. **And His disciples put their faith in Him.** - John 2:11*

Very few people saw what Jesus did. Only a handful of people even realized a miracle had taken place. Most of the guests drank the delicious wine thinking the bride and groom had bought it at a very high price. Only Mary, the servants, and Jesus' disciples knew where the special wine came from.

The Bible tells us that Jesus showed His glory by doing this miracle. In other words, Jesus showed His power - He revealed that He was God. Jesus was not ready for *everyone* to know who He was. But it was time for the disciples to know, so He allowed them to see His power. And how did the disciples react? (See the verse above.) When they saw Jesus' power with their own eyes, they put their faith in Him completely.

In time, Jesus would do many more miracles. Soon, more and more people would get to see who Jesus was. The book of John describes many of the miracles that Jesus performed. At the end of the book, John tells us exactly **why** these amazing events were recorded.

*These (miracles) are written down so that **you** may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. **If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to Him.** - John 20:31*

 These miracles were written down for **YOU!** God wants **you** to know that Jesus is God, and that He died to take away your sins. If you put your trust in Him, your sins have been forgiven.

And if you are a follower of Jesus, remember that the book of John is a great book to share with a friend who wants to know more about Jesus.