

Water to New Wine

The disciple John tells us his purpose for writing his gospel in John 20:31, “that ye might believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” John presents only seven of Jesus' miracles in his gospel calling them signs, which point to Jesus as the Son of God. We will study and unpack the first sign, turning water to wine as recorded in John's second chapter, verses 1-11.

This first sign occurs during a wedding feast at which Jesus' mother tells Him the wine has run out. Mary, with full confidence in Jesus, directs the servant to follow His directions.

John 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. This is rich and valuable advice to all believers, “do whatever Jesus says,” but it has the vital prerequisite of hearing before doing. We need to know what Jesus said in the gospels and what He speaks to us today. James in James 1:22 gives this concise directive “be doers and not hearers only.”

The sign displayed by Jesus was not just the physical miracle of turning water to wine which does demonstrate that He had power of time as wine is naturally made over a period of time from grapes. Jesus always the over abundant One, converted water to the best wine.

*John 2:9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,
10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.*

Jesus came to replace the old with the new, the lesser with the better. This change was the cause of much conflict with the established religious leaders. The six water pots, which were filled with water and changed to wine, were normally used for ceremonial washing. Jesus changed this religious routine of the law into a living relationship with God, characterized with joyful celebration. The pots were empty but were now filled with over 120 gallons of the best wine. Wine is used to celebrate great occasions. In the Bible, wine symbolizes the Holy Spirit filling man's spirit. Jesus came to bring the new grace, replacing the old law from Moses. We were these hard, empty pots before Jesus filled us with His grace, life, and the Holy Spirit.

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Jesus valued this marriage to demonstrate the coming marriage of Christ and the church, His bride. Jesus taught about new wine can only be received and contained in new wine skins (in Matthew 9:17). The change was under way from law to grace and truth. Jesus confronted the religious leaders who did not want to change from their position of self power to full dependence on the grace of God.

John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Another truth presented in this first sign was God's desire to involve man in His blessings and work on this earth. Jesus includes obedient servants in His miracles. These servants who filled the water pots were aware that the wine they were taking to the governor of the marriage feast was recently only water. We can be a part of the miracles of God by yielding ourselves to to His directions and becoming His fruit bearers.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

We are created to present or bear the good works in the world showing the goodness of God, which draws me unto Him.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

This first sign in the gospel of John was only the beginning of Jesus' ministry as His followers believed on Him as the Son of God.

John 2:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.