



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JOHN 2:1-11

LESSON: JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE—January 3, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

The Gospel of John opens with the Introduction of (1:1-14) talking about Jesus' deity; He was with God, and He is God, which leads Him to being Creator (Genesis 1). He is the WORD; He became flesh, and Him being fully God and fully man.

In (1:15-28) John tells the priests and Levites that he is not the Christ, but he's a voice crying in the wilderness and baptizing with water. John the Baptist bore witness of the One who came after him, but was preferred before him, for Christ, the One who came already existed in eternity before John.

In (1:29-42) John the Baptist still intentionally points to "*Jesus saying Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*" He continues to bare witness of the One who came after him but was preferred before him. He testifies that he didn't know Him, but he saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and abode (rested) upon Jesus. And Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Andrew and John (the author); the son of Zebedee heard what John the Baptist had said and began to follow Jesus. And Jesus gives them the invitation to comes and see, meaning follow Me. They dwelt with Jesus that day. Andrew later finds his brother Simon Peter and brought him to Jesus. Jesus changes his name to Cephas, interpreted, a stone. And this begins Jesus' first disciples.

In (1:43-51) Jesus finds Philip and Philip finds Nathanael and because Nathanael believed what Jesus told him, then he would see greater things. He would see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

LESSON:

I. AN UNEXPECTED NEED JOHN 2:1-5

2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there.

The writer John the Apostle says "And the third day" which associates with 1:43-51 may be later in the day because most Jewish weddings might begin at sundown. So, now, we are still in the third day of Jesus' journey where Mary, Jesus' mother was invited to a joyous wedding. This takes place in Cana, a small remote, obscure country village in the highlands of Galilee.

2:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. So on the third day of Jesus' journey both Jesus and His disciples are called to this wedding. Jesus with His five ¹new disciples had traveled from Bethany near Jericho, to Nathaniel's hometown of Cana in Galilee, which is about a two days' journey on foot, and they are all in for a delight. It will demonstrate one of His very purposes for coming to earth: to reveal the creative power of God. He has the power to create and produce what was needed to meet man's need. Jesus and His disciples are in attendance by invitation of this most joyous celebration and festive occasion of a marriage; one of the largest social events in a community. This tells us two things about Jesus.

1. Jesus was a sociable person: He likes people and people liked Him. His ministry was focused on being with and helping people all He could.
2. Jesus honored marriage. He demonstrated His approval and honor by attending the marriage feast

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/changing-water-into-wine/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>





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and by meeting the urgent need of the bridegroom.

This was the place of the beginning of His first miracle!

2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. A Jewish wedding ceremony included three major events:

1. There was a marriage feast and ceremony which were held on the same evening.
2. There was the escort of the couple through the streets to their home; usually taking place at night with flaming torches to light the way.
3. There was the open house which lasted for a week. All week long the couple wore their wedding garments (gown and robe) and entertaining guests. The whole community was expected to participate and celebrate with the couple in their new found happiness.

Now an issue has arisen! There are three concerns:

1. **The couple's concern:** They had to have enough wine for the celebration because there was a whole week of celebration yet to go forth.
2. **Mary's concern:** Mary wanted things to go well for the couple and she brings this concern to Jesus. *"There is no wine!"*

2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

3. **Jesus' concern:** He still had to teach and prepare His mother and disciples for His greater purpose. *"My hour had not yet come!"*

At this point, Jesus replies in a stern manner but not with disrespect. Mary focused on the social need (physical and material); while Jesus focused on the deeper need (soul and spirit; bearing the sins of the world for man). He calls her *"woman"*, not mother. ²To have addressed her as *"mother"* would have called attention to human relationships; but calling her *"woman"* showed that God (His deity) was speaking to her. We can also see that the mother and son relationship was changing. He had to hear from His Father. We may add that it is significant that the two times Christ addressed His mother as *"woman"* are both recorded in the Gospel of John which sets forth His Deity.

To say *"My"* hour has not come was saying, ³*"I am not quite ready to launch into the miracles at this time"*. Nevertheless, Jesus listens to Mary and has feelings for the host. The stage is set!

1. The hour has not yet come when He could really meet man's needs marked by the Father.
2. The hour has not yet come when He must die for man's regeneration marked by the Father.

2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. No matter what Jesus said to her, her speech; her confidence in her Son said it all, and she didn't back down. She was willing to let Him do whatever He pleased. Jesus could have gotten a merchant to reopen his shop and meet the need, or He could have told the servants to secure wine from some neighbors. However, the servants were to do whatever Jesus said to meet this unexpected need.

II. AN UNEXPECTED SOLUTION JOHN 2:6-11

2:6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Six is the number of man, for it was on the sixth day man was

² http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/John/john_06.htm

³ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/john/05.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>





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made and there were six waterpots standing there, not seven, the perfect number, but six. The six waterpots were used for the purifying and cleansing of the Jews, that is, the *ceremonial and religious cleansing* of the hands and utensils which represent Judaism ritual and washing of hands before sitting down to eat. Their smaller waterpots were used by women to transport water from wells. Each of these six stone waterpots could contain about eighteen to twenty-seven gallons each. The word "*firkin*" relates to a unit of liquid measure equivalent to a Hebrew bath about eight or nine gallons. There were 6 waterpots of stone containing two or three firkins apiece may hold 20 or more gallons of water. Jesus uses their ritual containers and causes a miracle. This meant the waterpots were huge!

2:7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

First instruction: fill the waterpots. Just as they had heard Mary say, '*whatever he says do it*', they did it by filling them to the brim; not with wine but with water. They didn't ask any questions about '*where is the wine?*' or how much should we fill the pots? ⁴Jesus didn't need the servants' help to perform this miracle. He could have miraculously filled the jars with wine without the servants help of first filling them with water. But He chose to include people in His work, just as He chooses to include us now. He uses us in small and large roles to accomplish His purposes and demonstrate His power to the world.

2:8 And he saith unto them. Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

Second instruction: "*draw out*," which refers to dipping out the water. **Third instruction:** bear unto the governor of the feast (*the head person in charge; the master of the waiters or servants; the master of the banquet*). That was all that was said and done. There was no delay of Jesus inspecting the water or passing His hand over the water. Faith always continues to present miracles in our lives. I believe (1.) Mary's faith started it off. The (2.) servant's obedience continued it as they were on one accord in doing what Jesus commanded. Now, the proof was ready for the master of the banquet to taste.

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, — The witnesses of the miracle was really viewed by the servants that drew the water into the waterpots, and of course His disciples. The governor of the feast only was witness to the taste of this magnificent wine in which he assumed the bridegroom had supplied. By the time he tasted it, it was no longer water but wine. Jesus did not wave His hand over it, or even touch the waterpots. The only ones to touch the pots were the servants. This was truly a miracle! And even in this first miracle, Jesus did not call attention to Himself.

2:10 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. This governor really was astounded over the wine, for it was of a more superior quality when it was tasted. The governor of the feast compliments the bridegroom. Contrary to normal custom, the good wine was served at the beginning of the feast and the cheaper wine after the guest has had their fill. ⁵After they had well drunk, their senses would have been dulled and they would have not known one wine from the other. But the governor did! This new wine was not of this world. This is like the best was kept until last. *This is what God did.* He first sent His prophets and judges to bring the people to the knowledge of God. Therefore, God's best was saved

⁴ John-God's Word for the Biblically-inept series

⁵ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/john/05.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>





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until last when God sent His only begotten Son. We see this whole incident was kept quiet because Jesus was not ready to be exposed as Messiah at that moment, for He had said His hour had not yet come. The servants knew, the disciples knew, Mary knew, and Jesus knew, that the wine had run out, but I find nowhere in this discourse where the crowd at the party or anyone in authority knew.

2:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. — "*Beginning*" means first. The word used here for "*miracles*" (*Gr sameion*) means "*signs*." The results were really threefold:

1. At a simple wedding in Cana brought forth a cause for a need to begin a miracle.
2. Christ's glory was revealed; His power to create was demonstrated.
3. The faith of the disciples was strengthened because of what they witnessed; giving evidence that Jesus was truly the Messiah. It confirmed and strengthened their faith! At first they believed upon the testimony of John, now they believe after seeing with their own eyes.

Interestingly Moses' first, miracle was a plague—turning water into blood (Exo.7:19), which speaks of judgment. Our Lord's first miracle spoke of grace. The manifestation of His glory; His Divine power showed that He could change things and do so miraculously for our need.

SUMMARY:

Jesus and His disciples are invited to a wedding in Cana. The names of the bride and groom are not given but in all probability, Mary (Jesus' Mother) was a good friend (2:1-2). At the wedding a crisis situation occurs. Since Jewish weddings lasted a week it was necessary for the groom to have adequate provisions. All the wine was used up so Mary turned to Jesus in hopes that He could solve the problem (2:3-5). **(2:1-5).**

Jesus asks the servants to fill the six water pots which were used for Jewish purification rites (2:6-7), before and after meals (Matthew 15:1-2). When they were full, He told them to take some to the governor (master) of the banquet (v.8). (2:6-8). When he tasted it, he said it was the best wine they had yet. Jesus' beginning (first) miracle, the manifestation of His glory, and His disciples believing on Him all happened at a wedding in Cana of Galilee (2:9-11). **(2:6-11).**