

## 5. Jesus Changed Water to Wine in Cana

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children really get to know Jesus. That will only happen as they learn to enjoy fellowship with Him. As our children begin to recognize the fellowship that we have with Jesus, they are being shown how to have that same fellowship in their own lives.

We see that Jesus began to make contacts to build His team immediately after Jesus was publicly introduced to His first disciples. The first day, He met at least Peter, Andrew and John. The next day, He met at least Philip and Nathanael. As we come to John chapter two, we see what happened on the third day. John 2:1-4 says, “On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, ‘They have no wine.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.’” Here, we see that Jesus took some of His early disciples along with Him to a wedding in the city of Cana.

In that time, a wedding celebration often lasted for about a week. The man getting married was expected to provide all of the food and drink that the guests would eat and drink during that week. Mary, the mother of Jesus, had been invited to the wedding. Jesus had also received an invitation. A servant would often be sent to get the guests when the time for the wedding came. This is illustrated in Matthew 22:2-3 where we read, “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.” Since Jesus had disciples visiting Him at that time, they were also invited to the wedding, probably by the servant who came to say the wedding was ready.

However, a problem happened at the wedding. Before the final days of the wedding celebration, the man getting married had run out of wine. Mary immediately told Jesus about this need. She may have felt responsible because of the fact that the disciples had been invited to come with Jesus at the last minute. The book of John focuses on the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. As a result, we see that Jesus called Mary “woman” instead of mother. This is true throughout the book of John. Even on the cross, we read that Jesus called Mary “woman”. John 19:26-27 says, “When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.”

Jesus asked Mary what her concern had to do with Him. Jesus showed that He was now focused on His purpose for coming to this earth as the Son of God. This statement is explained in the next sentence when Jesus said that His hour had not come. The phrase “My hour is not yet come” is always used to refer to the death, resurrection and return of Jesus to heaven. In John 13:1, we read, “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.” Then, Jesus said the same thing later that night to the Father in His prayer in John 17:1 where we read, “Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: ‘Father, the

hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.””

Mary respected the statement of Jesus but still spoke to the servants. John 2:5-10 says, “His mother said to the servants, ‘Whatever He says to you, do *it*.’ Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the waterpots with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, ‘Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast.’ And they took *it*. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, ‘Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!’” The servants were told to do whatever Jesus told them to do and so they did.

There were six large stone pots that were setting there. These were normally used by the Jews for purification before the people ate. Mark 7:3 says, “For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash *their* hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders.” Here, we see that the Pharisees put great pressure on the rest of the Jews to wash their hands this special way before eating anything in order to stick to their traditions. These stone pots each held between 20 and 30 gallons of water. Jesus told the servants to fill up these stone pots with water. This would have taken a period of time since the servants had to go to get the water and bring the water to the place where the wedding was being held. However, the servants obeyed and filled the six waterpots until they were all filled right up to the very top of each pot.

Then, Jesus told the servants to take some of the water out of the pots and take it to the master of the feast. The master of the feast was the person in charge of all of the details for the wedding so that the groom did not need to think about those things during the several days of the wedding celebration. The master of the feast tasted the water that Jesus had turned into wine. The servants did not tell him the source of the wine. Instead, they just gave it to him to taste. The master of the feast immediately called the groom.

He told the groom that most people use their good wine first and then after the guests have finished drinking the good wine people start to put out the inferior wine. However, he said that the groom had kept the good wine until that moment. The word that is translated “good” means *that which is good or excellent in its nature*. The word is used twice in Luke 8:15 in the parable of the four kinds of soil where we read, “‘But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.’” Jesus also used the word twice in John 10:11 to describe Himself. That verse says, “‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.’”

The servants and the disciples of Jesus knew the source of the good wine but neither the master of the feast or the groom knew. The reason for that fact is explained in John 2:11-12 where we read, “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.” In this verse, we see that this was the beginning

of signs that Jesus did so that His disciples could see that Jesus is God.

In the book of John, we see that seven signs are recorded before the crucifixion and resurrection. For part of these miracles, only His disciples were present because Jesus did these miracles so that His disciples would believe. The seven recorded signs are:

John 2:1-11 – Jesus changed the water to wine – His control over quality.

John 4:46-54 – Jesus healed the son of a nobleman – His control over distance.

John 5:1-18 – Jesus healed a man crippled for 38 years – His control over time.

John 6:1-14 – Jesus fed the five thousand – His control over quantity.

John 6:15-21 – Jesus walked on the water – His control over nature.

John 9:1-41 – Jesus healed a man born blind – His control over physical disability.

John 11:1-44 – Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead – His control over life and death.

John explained why these seven signs were the seven that he recorded in this book in John 20:30-31. Those verses say, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” The books of Matthew, Mark and Luke had been written quite a number of years before the book of John so he only included these miracles. We see that his purpose for including these miracles was so that all who read them “May believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” That is why we want to help our physical and spiritual children clearly understand the fact that these miracles are recorded as signs.

John 4:54 says, “This again *is* the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.” Then, John 6:14 adds, “Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, ‘This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.’” The people debated whether Jesus was God or not were forced to recognize these miracles as signs. John 9:16 says, “Therefore some of the Pharisees said, ‘This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?’ And there was a division among them.” The signs forced the people to either recognize or reject the fact that Jesus is God.

We see the attitude of those who rejected in John 11:47-50 where we read, “Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, ‘What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.’ And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, ‘You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.’” We want to help our children understand that the signs caused the religious leaders to begin to plan the death of Jesus. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children to understand the importance of the signs in John.