

“Jesus’ First Miracle”

John 2:1-11

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John the Apostle composed his Gospel around eight specific miracles of Jesus to show his readers that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God, and the only One who can impart eternal life (20:30-31). John calls Jesus’ miracles “signs.” In John 2, he describes the first “sign” in Jesus’ ministry.

1. The Place of the Miracle—a wedding at Cana (2:1-2).

“And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding.”

2. The Prospect of a Miracle—a request by Mary (2:3-5).

“And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour is not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Whatever He says to you, do it.’”

3. The Procedure of the Miracle—the command of Jesus (2:6-8).

“Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. 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 headwaiter.’ And they took it to him.”

4. The Proof of the Miracle—water to wine (2:9-10).

“And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, ‘Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now.’”

5. The Purpose of the Miracle—glory and belief (2:11).

“This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.”

Notes:

2:4—“woman” = *‘gunai’* (Greek); an impersonal, cordial address; similar to our English “Ma’am” (cf. 4:21; 19:26; 20:13, 15)

2:4—“what do I have to do with you”—on this Aramaic/Hebrew idiomatic phrase, see 2 Sam 16:10—“what have I to do with thee” (KJV); “why do you involve me” (NIV); “what does that have to do with us” (Rev. NAS); “what does this have to do with me” (ESV); “what does your concern have to do with Me” (NKJV); “what to me and to you” (Greek)

2:11—“beginning” = *‘archein’*, “first, origin”

2:11—“signs” = a supernatural act of God serving as an object lesson; John’s word for ‘miracle’ (cf. 2:23; 3:2; 4:54; 6:2; 7:31)