Water into Wine

John 2:1-11
6-2-2024

Introduction:
**** See the power of Jesus Christ on display as he changes water into wine***

Features of the water to wine miracle:

I. Help was requested and the miracle <u>met a practical need</u> (v. 3-4)

II. The miracle involved the obedience and participation of <u>eye witnesses</u> (v. 5-7)

III. The miracle was empowered by the <u>Word of Jesus Christ</u> (v. 7-8)

IV. The miracle occurred <u>instantaneously</u> (v. 8)

V. The miracle produced a most <u>excellent product</u> (v. 9-10)

VI. The miracle <u>glorified Jesus Christ</u> (v.11a)

VII. The miracle <u>encouraged faith</u> (v.11b)

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Introduction:

"In 1980, wine buyers from all over the world gathered at the twelfth annual Heublein Rare Wine Auction in San Francisco. At the auction, a restaurant owner who had vowed to get 'the finest bottle of wine in the world' spent $31,000 for a vintage 1822 bottle of Chateau Lafite Rothschild.

"The well-heeled audience of more than 300 wine connoisseurs gasped and applauded as the auctioneer slammed his gavel on the podium, ending the brisk, three-minute competition to capture this prized wine. Valued not only for its rarity but also for its incomparable taste, Chateau Lafite continues to break auction records year after year.

"But the world's finest wine was not made in the vineyards of France, nor was it served in he finest international restaurants. It was made and served at an unpretentious wedding in Cana of Galilee—two thousand years ago. And that wine is valued to this day, not for its rarity, but for what it reveals about its Maker . . . Jesus Christ."

(Swindoll, p. 32)

v. 1

According to John, who gives in these opening chapters a day-by-day chronicle of Jesus' public ministry, this is now **"the third day."** The "third day" after Jesus called His disciples.

On the second day, Jesus had traveled north to Galilee (1:43) and now, being near Cana, He attends a wedding along with His newly selected disciples.

Nathaniel, who followed Jesus the day prior, was about to experience some of the **"greater things"** Jesus had mentioned to him when they met. Nathaniel had experienced the omniscient mind and all-seeing eye of Christ, who knew the secrets of Nathaniel even when he was all alone (Jn. 1:48), and now he would see the omnipotent power of Christ.

Cana was near (a few miles north of) Nazareth, the home of Mary. So she had friends who lived there.
"The mother of Jesus was there" – Apparently Mary is a widow now (Joseph evidently passed away prior to Jesus beginning His public ministry at age 30).

v. 2

"Jesus was on a mission to save the world, the greatest mission in the history of mankind. Yet He took time to attend a wedding." (Life Application Bible note, p. 1902). You, too, can do the work of God even while attending a social event. God can use all situations for his glory and we can redeem every occasion for Him.

**** See the power of Jesus Christ on display as he changes water into wine***

Features of the water to wine miracle:

I. Help was requested and the miracle <u>met a practical need</u> (v. 3-4)

v. 3
Mary knew that her son could do something about the situation.

v. 4
"Woman" – not a term of disrespect (as the term of address would seem to be in our day).

"What have I to do with thee" – Why do you involve Me? (NIV)

"Mine hour is not yet come" – The time had not yet come for Jesus to be <u>openly known</u> and glorified by men (SEE: John 7:1-6, cp. 8:20)

"Weddings in Jesus' day were week-long festivals. Banquets would be prepared for many guests, and the week would be spent celebrating the new life of the married couple. Often the whole town was invited, and everybody would come—it was considered an insult to refuse an invitation to a wedding. To accommodate many people, careful planning was needed. To run out of wine was more than embarrassing; it broke the strong unwritten laws of hospitality. Jesus was about to respond to a heartfelt need." (Life Application Bible, p. 1902).

Jesus blesses every place He visits. "Wise is the couple who invite Jesus to their wedding." (Wiersbe, p. 290).

"Mary did not tell Jesus what to do; she simply reported the problem. . . Mary's words tot he servants reveal that she was willing to let her son do whatever He pleased, and that she trusted Him to do what was right." (Wiersbe, p. 290-91). It would be wise for all of us to do likewise.

II. The miracle involved the obedience and participation of <u>eye witnesses</u> (v. 5-7)

v. 5
"Whatsoever He saith to you, do it" – Mary's advise still applies today. Although so many venerate and give allegiance to Mary, she would draw attention away from herself and on to Jesus Christ.

If Mary could speak today, she would say, "Don't worship me! Obey Christ! What He says in His Word, do it!"

v. 6
"Six water pots" – If there were six hundred or six million, Jesus could have performed the same miracle.

A **"firkin"** is estimated to contain about nine gallons (Ryrie note). Hence, 9 gallons x 3 firkins would be around 27 gallons and 27 x 6 water pots would be approximately 162 gallons to satisfy many thirsty wedding guests.

At servings of one cup each, this would make 2, 592 servings.

The Lord Jesus desires to fill our lives with His best blessings; however, obedience to His word is a prerequisite.

v. 7
The fact that the jars were filled to the very top indicates that there would be no room left for adding anything to the water.

There were no additives mixed in the water, no powder mix (like Kool-Aid), not artificial colors and flavorings (to give the liquid a grape taste), and no deceptive magician's trickery. It was the real thing.

"They filled them to the brim" – The more water they put in, the more wine they got in return. The same principle applies today. The more you give to Jesus, the more He can bless and transform for His glory!

"Several of the signs in John's Gospel involve the cooperation of man and God: the feeding of the 5,000 (Jn. 6), the healing of the man born blind (Jn. 9), and the raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11). Whether we pass out bread, wash away mud, or roll away the stone, we are assisting Him in performing a miracle." (Wiersbe, p. 292).

III. The miracle was empowered by the Word of Jesus Christ (v. 7-8)

v. 8
"Draw out now" – As they scooped out what they knew to be water, to their amazement they found it to be wine.

As is true with all of Christ's miracles, the power came from the creative power of His Word. He just spoke (gave command0 and whatever He spoke came to pass. Just as He, the Word, spoke the universe into existence, all He had to do was "speak the word only," and it would be done.

IV. The miracle occurred instantaneously (v. 8)

The miracle was not some long, drawn out, evolutionistic transformation, but was immediate and complete.

V. The miracle produced a most excellent product (v. 9-10)

v. 9
With no informant clueing the head waiter as to where the wine came from, the man could not keep the blessing to himself, but he praises the bridegroom for giving his guests such high quality juice and for saving the best for last.

v. 10
To make a good first impression, normally the best wine would be given first, then later the unsuspecting guests would receive the inferior. But here, as is the case in all of Christ's work, the best is saved for last. "The last shall be first!"

Everything Jesus produces is excellent! He gives the best to those who seek Him.

"People look everywhere but to God for excitement and meaning. For some reason, they expect God to be dull and lifeless. Just as the wine Jesus made was the bets, so

life in Him is better than life on our own. Why wait unt9il everything else runs out before trying God? Why save the best until last?" (Life Application note, p. 1902).

"I am reminded of the story of the drunken coal miner who was converted and became a vocal witness for Christ. One of his friends tried to trap him by asking, 'Do you believe that Jesus turned water into wine?' 'I certainly do!' the believer replied. 'In my home, He has turned wine into furniture, decent clothes, and food for my children!'" (Wiersbe, p. 292).

Although it is not the point of the text, a word must be said about the nature of the wine Jesus created. Was it fermented or non-fermented? Was it new fresh wine or old fermented alcoholic wine? The text does not specifically say. However, it must be noted that:

1)the Bible speaks of two types of wine ("old" and "new" – that is, alcoholic intoxicating wine and new freshly squeezed grape juice). Both kinds are translated "wine" in the New Testament ("wine from the Greek word *oinos*)

2) the Bible identifies "new wine" as non-fermented and therefore non-alcoholic (Luke 5:"37; cp. Josh. 9:13; Is. 65:8)

3) Jesus identified Himself and His new message and ministry with "<u>new wine</u>" (Lk. 5:36-38)

4) the Bible teaches that the "blessing is in the new wine (Is. 65:8)

5) the Bible condemns drinking alcoholic liquor and drunkenness (Prov. 23:31-35)

6) The Lord's Supper would have involved new wine. <u>New</u> wine or unfermented wine, like unleavened bread, best symbolizes our Lord's pure, sinless body and blood. (Mt. 26:28; Mk. 14:24)

7) The Lord Jesus foretold that "new" wine would be drunk in His kingdom (Mt. 26:29)

Did Jesus give them old, intoxicating wine to drink?

"These guests would thus have already become intoxicated if they were drinking [alcoholic] wine rather than grape juice; then, if Jesus Christ had given them even more wine (instead of simply replenishing their exhausted supply of grape juice), He would have deliberately caused the marriage guests to become even more drunk. Since all Scripture is united in condemning drunkenness as a sin, this kind of harmful miracle is an impossibility for the One 'who knew no sin'." (Robert Teachout, p. 68).

(For study on the differences between the two types of wines and for a case supporting abstinence from alcoholic wine see: <u>Bible Wines or the Laws of Fermentation</u> (William

Patton, Challenge Press, Little Rock, n.d.). Wine – The Biblical Imperative: Total Abstinence by Robert P. Teachout)

VI. The miracle glorified Jesus Christ (v.11a)

"The beginning of miracles" - lit. The start of signs. John records several signs in His gospel to exalt Christ and encourage faith in Him

John 20:30-31
And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: [31] But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

A sign was not an end in itself, but was a miraculous event or a supernatural wonder pointing to the supernatural power of God. A sign post gives information and direction. Christ's signs also give the world knowledge of who He was and directed people to Him. His signs authenticated Him.

"Manifested forth" – To make visible so that people could clearly see. Jesus' messianic glory shone forth by this start of miracles.

The ultimate purpose of all miracles, is to glorify Jesus Christ.

The main reason for this miracle was not to supply a needed beverage; but was to uplift the person and power of Jesus Christ.

"His messianic glory was manifested in the abundance of wine which was the Old Testament figure for joy of the final days." (Brown, cited by Rienecker, p. 222).

"In the Scriptures, wine is a symbol of joy" (SEE Judges 9:13; Ps. 104:15) (Weirsbe, p. 291).

VII. The miracle encouraged faith (v.11b)

The fact that Jesus made that happy occasion even more happy, demonstrates that He is interested in our joy. He came to give abundant life (not just eternal life) (Jn. 10:10).

The result of the miracle was the profound impact that it had on Jesus' newly-picked disciples. This sign led to their faith in Him.

When you read your Bible and see what Jesus said and did, it will build your faith in Him as well. As we also experience Christ's working in our lives today, our faith in Him is bolstered.

CONCLUSION:

Just as the Lord Jesus Christ had the power to change ordinary water into delicious juice, He can transform any life or any circumstance into something wonderful. Sinners can be changed into saints; hopeless situations cane be transformed into blessings.

Christ still has this power, and it is His desire to visit your life, family, and circumstances. When He does, you will never be the same!