

What Do you Know About Turning Water to Wine?

TEXT: John 2:1-11

THESIS: To see the amazing care Jesus has for us.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Weddings are fun and are times we celebrate and rejoice.
 - A. We enjoy the company of those we love and we rejoice at the new bond of unity and commitment between two people and God.
 - B. But anybody that has planned a wedding knows about all the work involved.
 1. Everything has to be done and since it is a memorable day we want everything to go just right.
 2. The bride spends the whole day getting ready and the groom spends about 10 minutes.
 3. The meal is set the minister is in place.
 4. The rehearsal has helped everyone know exactly where to stand.
 5. The cake is in the right place.
 6. And through all of the practices, all of the preparation, all of the planning, most weddings will have one glitch, one or two things that were not perfect.
 - C. And, it just goes to show us that life rarely works as smoothly or goes as well as we want it to and that is especially true on wedding days!
2. Now, the first recorded miracle of our Lord took place in a town called, Cana of Galilee.
 - A. The event was a wedding.
 - B. Cana was an inconspicuous little town that lay outside of Nazareth.
 1. Cana had no social prominence in its day!
 2. In fact, biblical scholars took 1800 years before they could figure out just where this town was.
3. Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus and his disciples had all been invited to the wedding.
 - A. Because social standing was so important in the Jewish culture of this time, we assume that this was a "peasant" wedding.
 - B. Otherwise, Mary, being a peasant, would have never been invited.
4. Now, Jewish weddings were, and are, a big deal in the Jewish culture.
 - A. The wedding ceremony would take place late in the evening after a time of feasting.
 1. The father of the bride would take his daughter on his arm, and with the wedding party in tow, would parade through the streets of the village so that everyone could come out and congratulate the bride.
 2. Finally the wedding party would arrive at the home of the groom.
 - B. The wedding actually took place in the front door of the groom's house.
 1. It was no short ceremony but the festivities lasted for days.
 2. It was a time of great celebration.
 - C. After the wedding ceremony the bride and groom walked through the streets accompanied by flaming torches.
 1. Their attendants walked with them keeping a canopy over their heads.
 - a. The wedding party always took the longest route through the village so that as

- many people as possible could wish them well.
2. There was no such thing as a honeymoon and the couple kept open house for a week.
 - a. They were treated like royalty.
 - b. They dressed in fancy clothes and many times actually wore crowns on their heads.
 - c. The groom's family was expected to provide all the refreshments for this week of festivities.
 5. And that is where we pick up our scripture of Jn. 2:1-11.
 - A. Now, oftentimes we miss the meaning of these passages because we are more concerned with if Jesus made alcoholic wine or grape juice (not to be drunken with wine – Eph. 5:18).
 - B. What we should notice here is that Jesus rescued the wedding from social disaster.
 1. Suddenly the host discovers that they are running out of wine.
 - a. They had underestimated the amount of wine the guest would consume at the feast.
 - b. It would have been improper for the culture of this time to not have wine.
 - c. Jews did not get drunk at these celebrations—drunkenness was considered a disgrace.
 2. But the host could have actually been sued for a breach of hospitality to his guest.
 - a. And, evidently they did not have the money to go and purchase more wine.
 - C. And so, Jesus' mother comes to Jesus and says, "Son, we've got a problem here, and we need your help."
 1. The groom's family is running out of wine."
 2. The fact that Mary came to Jesus with such a problem is a reminder that Jesus is concerned with the everyday things in life that we face.
 6. Now, Jesus knew that the family would be really embarrassed if the wine were to run out on this celebration.
 - A. Also, to the Jewish people wine symbolized joy and without it, the joy would stop.
 - B. Jesus answers his mother in what seems like a harsh way (vs. 4), but He is not being harsh.
 1. Instead, He is focusing on His life and ministry and that setting in motion His ministry would prompt men to eventually seek His death.
 2. And, as John wrote, it seems that this is the starting point of Jesus' ministry as he records this miracle or sign.
 - a. You know, signs are usually placed in places to give us information, or point us in the direction.
 - b. The miracles of Christ were always meant to reveal to us the glory of God, and point us to who He truly is.
 7. So, let's take a look at what this first sign means for us today.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE WINE CAN RUN OUT

- A. Mary realizes the seriousness of the issue and you can hear it in her words... "They have

no wine.”

- B. As I said before, to the Jewish people, wine symbolized joy.
 - 1. So in essence, they were running out of joy and that is a scary thought.
 - 2. I mean, imagine a life without joy?
 - 3. Imagine Christians, the emptiness of our life without Christ.
 - 4. This statement by the mother of Jesus goes beyond liquid refreshment at a wedding.
 - a. It is symbolic of our lives.
- C. You all have heard of the name Earnest Hemmingway.
 - 1. He was a great storyteller.
 - 2. Many of his books are considered to be classics.
 - a. The Old Man and The Sea and Islands in the stream among many others shows he was a genius.
 - b. He was a Nobel Prize recipient.
 - c. From the very early years of his life he was a person who went for it all.
 - 1. He was a newspaper reporter and an ambulance driver during WWI.
 - 2. He was involved in the Spanish Civil War.
 - 3. He had friendships that ranged from bullfighters to authors.
 - d. Whatever he did, he went for it all, he was drinking long at the natural wine (joy) of life.
 - 3. But there came a day when those wines ran out and he took his life.
- D. How is your joy?
 - 1. Some are so full of joy that you let your cup overflow.
 - a. Your joy is plentiful and you have more than enough to share.
- E. But, there are many and many times when the wine runs out and there is no joy.
 - 1. People too often kill themselves because they have no joy.
 - 2. People walk around with anguish on their faces.
 - 3. And, families that were once filled with exuberant joy are now ending in pain of divorce—why?
 - a. There is no more joy in the relationship.
 - 4. Now, there are those who have not gone to that extreme, but still, there are plenty who are not living life, they are just enduring life.
 - a. They drift from one day to the next.
 - b. You and I have no resources available within ourselves to replace the joy.
 - c. Joy can come when it comes from Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Sometimes we forget that Joy comes from the Lord.
 - 2. That we go empty without him.
 - 3. But the Bible reminds us that the Joy of the Lord is our strength.
 - a. Do you believe that?
 - b. Because if you do that means that Joy doesn't come from anywhere else.
 - 1. I may be married to a great person but my Joy comes from God.
 - 2. Your team may have went to the superbowl but your Joy comes from God.
 - 3. My children may be geniuses but my Joy comes from God.
 - c. And, when things are not well, we can still say I will find a way to rejoice

in Jesus.

F. So, when we run out of wine ...

II. JESUS CAN TURN WATER INTO WINE

A. Now, Mary came to Jesus and told him of the problem that they were facing.

1. I can just imagine her telling the groom's mother, "You hold on just a minute! I know just what to do with this situation."
2. She came to Jesus and told him...and...I love her instructions to the servants: "Whatever he says to you, do it" Just Do It! (vs. 5)

B. Jesus took the waterpots that were filled with water for handwashing (vs. 6-8).

1. When the guest arrived someone would pour some of this water over his or her hands (tip to elbow) in a symbolic purification.
 - a. To eat with unwashed hands would have been defilement.
2. Jesus took this water and made approx. 180 gallons of wine.
3. Now, it's interesting to note that Jesus took the water for purification and made a miracle out of it.
 - a. The water in those pots was merely for an external cleansing.
 - b. But, Jesus ministry over the next three years would teach people about an inner cleansing.

C. Now, if we look at this miracle of Jesus we see this truth...Jesus is not just the giver of joy...he is the giver of "abundant" joy.

1. He not only met their immediate need, but he gave abundance.
2. Jesus did not just make some ordinary wine.
 - a. No, the wine that he produced was better than that which they had started the celebration with.
 1. Jesus did not just doctor the water so that it tasted like wine.
 2. No, the water in those pots was transformed into the finest wine the people had ever tasted.
 - b. The truth for us is this: Jesus is not going to just doctor up our lives a little bit.
 1. Just put a Band-Aid on our needs—no he wants to transform your life, just like he transformed that water.
 2. Our lives will take on a new nature.
 - a. With Jesus, it is about a transformation.
 1. He turned water into wine.
 2. He turns frowns into smiles.
 3. He turns fears into hope.
 4. He turns sorrow into joy.
 5. He turns sin into grace.
 6. He turns death into life.
 - b. Jesus not just changes things, He changes people.
 - c. He changes our lives!

D. But, that is not all...This sign teaches us that...

III. JESUS OFFERS AN ABUNDANCE

- A. Sometimes it is hard for us to understand God not only meeting our need but providing for us an abundance.
 - 1. BUT, That's the story of grace.
 - a. There is no measure to grace.
 - b. There will always be enough grace to meet our needs.
 - 2. That's the story of God's love.
 - a. There is nothing that you can do that will cause God to diminish his love for you.
 - 3. Understand this principle of God today...God is not just a God of the required—he is a God of the abundance.
 - a. Malachi 3:10, "Bring all the tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, If I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it"
 - b. Not "just enough"—an abundance
- B. I mean, look at creation—have you ever been to the Rockies?
 - 1. There is an overabundance.
 - a. God didn't give us "just enough" beauty, it is all around us.
 - 2. Have you ever been to the seashore and looked out over the ocean.
 - a. There is far more beauty that our eyes can absorb.
 - 3. Have you ever seen a field of wildflowers?
 - a. Not just enough to fill a vase in your living room, but more than enough.
 - 4. This is the picture of grace...God always gives more than you will ever need!
- C. So the wine is poured out and all the people who are present rejoice at the richness of this "new wine".
 - 1. This was completely against custom.
 - a. The best wine was always offered first.
 - 2. But, isn't that just like our Lord?
 - a. The best always comes at the end.
 - b. The grace we once tasted cautiously—we now drink freely.
 - 1. Jesus has poured out in us the richness of his love and forgiveness.
 - 3. There is one among us who is pouring out the rich "wine" and there is enough for everyone!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Jesus manifest His glory here (vs. 11) and was written to produce belief in His Deity as the Christ (Jn. 20:30-31).
- 2. So, what do you do when the wine runs out?
 - A. Mary showed us by example and told the servants that if they would just do what Jesus commanded they would see a miracle.
 - B. A miracle that not only met their immediate need...but a miracle of abundance.
- 3. Has your joy ran out?
 - A. Jesus wants to transform you!
 - B. Bring your need to him!
 - C. He is waiting to see if you know what to do when there is no more joy.