

Learning to Embrace the Best Thing

"Learning Jesus" (The Gospel of John)

John 2:1-11

February 3, 2019

BIG IDEA

The miracle Jesus did at Cana was a signal that a new day had come. A better era was dawning. A greater gift had been given. A life with Jesus is the only thing worth pursuing. He is the greater gift. Believe in Him. Rely on Him. Don't waste your life on something less. Learn to embrace the best thing!

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

This is the first of seven signs that Jesus did in order to prove that He is who He said He is.

The Seven Signs

- Changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11)
- Healing the royal official's son (Jn 4:46-54)
- Healing the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem (Jn 5:1-15)
- Feeding the 5,000 (Jn 6:5-13)
- Walking on water (Jn 6:16-21)
- Healing the man born blind (Jn 9:1-7)
- Raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:1-44)

Cana was a village located about eight miles from Nazareth (Jesus' birthplace). His mother Mary was there and so were some disciples, including Andrew, Simon, Philip, Nathan, and John.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what

does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. The Signs Were Intended to Prove That Jesus Is Who He Said He Is

***John 2:11** – This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.*

The miracle was such that the disciples saw His glory and put their faith in Him, which is the goal of the Gospel. In John 20:31 the Apostle wrote “that we might believe that Jesus is the Son of God and have life in his name.”

- a. **The disciples didn’t believe until they saw Jesus do a miracle. Can you describe the events that transpired in your life to help you believe? How do you see God’s hand on those events?**

- b. **God does miracles every day that we likely don’t see or acknowledge. What are some miracles that have been done in your life that you can start praising God for? This would be a great way to start living a life of gratitude.**



2. Jesus Wholeheartedly Pursued His Father's Will

***John 2:3-5** – When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”⁴ And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”*

Jesus asked His mother a poignant question: “Woman, what does this have to do with me?” This terminology is no doubt a gentle rebuke. It could read: “You have no claims on me,” or, “Why do you involve me?” What Jesus is doing here is declaring, at the beginning of His ministry, His freedom from the agendas of others or any kind of man-made manipulation. He has one purpose and one purpose only: To wholeheartedly pursue His Father's will.

a. What are some distractions in your life that might be keeping you from wholeheartedly pursuing God's will?

b. What is the cost of these distractions?

c. Even if you decide that pursuing the Lord will be your most important thing, can you do it on your own? How would you do it?

3. The Sign at Cana Painted a Contrast Between Old and New

***John 2:6-8** – Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.⁸ And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it.*



The jars were made of stone, so as not to contract uncleanness. Stone could be used for ceremonial washing. In the context of a wedding feast, there might have been ritual washing of certain utensils and of guests' hands. Because these jars were used for Jewish purification, a contrast is made between the old order and a new way.

Jesus' command to fill the jars to the brim indicates that the time for ceremonial purification was completely fulfilled. This ritual wasn't needed anymore. The new order of things, symbolized by the wine would be, by no mistake, drawn from jars that were intimately connected to Jewish purification.

- a. **Why did Jesus order the jars filled to the brim? What does this exercise say about the New Covenant that Jesus is introducing? Is Jesus enough for you? Why do you go back to your old ways?**

- b. **The Jewish Law contained rules for ceremonial washing. These rules are no longer needed because Jesus fulfilled them. Spiritually speaking, in our day, how are we made clean?**

- c. **Why do many people keep drifting back to rules in order to try to find purity? How can we avoid doing so?**

4. **The Best Came Last**

John 2:9-10 – *When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”*



Not only was Jesus saving the groom and his family from terrible embarrassment that would've come if the wine had run out, He was doing something greater. He was introducing a new Messianic age.

The miracle took place between the filling of the jars and the water being drawn out of them. When the master of the banquet tasted the wine, he found it to be superior to what they had been drinking. In contrast with a common custom in which the best wine was served first and the lesser quality later, he affirmed that this wine, served last, was the best.

It's very important that we understand that the significance of this miracle is that Christianity is an advancement over strict Judaism. God has kept the best gift (signified by the best wine, which was served last)—His Son—until now. Jesus is the best thing!

a. Why is Christianity a better way than ritual Judaism? Is there still room for rules in the life of the Christian?

b. In what ways did Judaism pave the way for Christianity? What was the Old Testament pointing toward?

5. Jesus Proves to Be Sovereign Creator and Ruler of the Material Universe

John 1:1-5 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The miracle of turning water into wine showed the majestic glory of Jesus. He is the sovereign Creator (pointed out by John in 1:1-5). He is the king and ruler of the material universe. Though the disciples did not understand everything about Him at this point, they knew enough to believe in His power. All of the background to this event is amazing, but the sheer force of the miracle—turning water into wine—brought the disciples to belief.



- a. **Obviously, so much of the Lord's attributes are seen in this miracle. Because He is the ruler over material creation, what things can He do that no one else can? Is there anything He can't do? Why have you stopped praying for Him to do something great?**

- b. **Jesus is the best thing. We can embrace Him by following His example to pursue God's will for our lives, accepting the grace and relational closeness that comes with the New Covenant, and believing in His name. Do you feel like you're wasting your chance to be close to Jesus? What can you do to change that?**

- c. **What have you learned about Jesus within this study that sticks with you or changes your view of Him?**

PRAY

Jesus, you are an amazing person. You are who you say you are. I believe. I believe that you turned water into wine. Now, help me to go out and make sure each man, woman, and child knows, too. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*Life in Christ: Lessons From Our Lord's Miracles and Parables*](#) – a book from Charles H. Spurgeon
- [*God's Law and the Christian*](#) – a CD series from R.C. Sproul

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Seven Signs Point to Jesus as Son of God; Sign #2 – The Healing of the Royal Official's Son (John 4:43-54)

