



The Lord's First Miracle

Of all the miracles that Jesus did, we know what the first one was. It is recorded only in the Gospel of John.

John 2:1-11

Background Info:

1. Most Jewish weddings last a week or more
2. It was the groom's family that was responsible for feeding the guests.
3. Because of Mary's involvement, it is believed that the groom was related to her.
4. Since there is a "headwaiter" the groom's family is thought to have some money
5. Running out of food or drink is a huge social embarrassment. It would be devastating to the family.

Textual Notes:

1. The story begins on "The third day" (John 2:1)
 - John was baptizing (1:28)
 - The next day (1:29)
 - The next day (1:35)
 - The next day (1:43)

Three days after 1:43, or the 7th day since 1:28

2. Mary speaks first (1:3)
 - Jesus and His disciples not only were invited but they came

(a) Three things come from this conversation

1. Jesus calls Mary "Woman"
 - Mary is never called Mary by Jesus in John
 - 19:26 "woman behold your son"
 - This seems disrespectful to us. Jesus would not be that way. Jesus is putting distance between family (Mt 12:47-49; 10:37)

2. "What do I have to do with you?" means what concern is that to me (Lk 2:49)

3. "My hour has not yet come"
 - Once Jesus started His ministry, the clock was ticking. He was on a specific time table. His destiny was set (Jn 7:6,8, 30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1)
 - "The hour" has to do with His appointment with the Cross

Conversations in this Story

- Mary and Jesus speak (3-4)
- Mary speaks to the servants (5)
- Jesus speaks to the servants (7-8)
- Headwaiter speaks to the groom (10)



3. There were six stone waterpots used for purification (hand washing)

- ❑ Each pot held 20-30 gallons
- ❑ The pots were filled to the top (120-180 gallons)
- ❑ Water, now wine was taken and given to the headwaiter. He tasted it.
- ❑ The headwaiter complains to the groom that the best is always served first

We notice two immediate characteristics of this miracle:

1. The volume of wine made (more than 600 bottles of wine as it is produced today or 50 cases of wine)
2. The high grade or quality of wine made



Sadly the power of this miracle is lost because misguided people use this passage as a reason to justify social drinking.

- They miss understand the character of Jesus
- They do not understand the nature of wines in the Bible. Although fermented, it was so watered down that is tasted like colored water without the effects of alcohol.

4. Three things came from this miracle (Jn 2:11)

- (a) this was the "beginning of His signs"
 - Mary would not have expected Him to do a miracle since He had never done one before
 - Jesus did not do any miracles while growing up
- (b) this manifested His glory
 - the servants and the disciples seem to be the only ones who knew of this miracle
- (c) the disciples believed in Him
 - this was always the purpose of miracles

Focusing upon the Miracle

1. The text does not indicate that Jesus said anything, did anything or even prayed to change the water to wine.
2. This is the only time Jesus did this miracle.
3. This miracle seems to have been unplanned and Jesus even seemed reluctant to do this at first

Next Time:

Read about the man lowered through the roof (Luke 5:17-26; Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 9:1-8).

- Jesus asks: "Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, and walk.'"

- What is the answer to that question?