

# The Word Became Flesh

September 23, 2012

## Lesson #4 John 2: 1-12 Jesus Christ Performs His First Miracle – Water to Wine

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Memory Verse: *“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”* John 20: 30 & 31

**Definition of Miracle-** a less common, extraordinary demonstration of God’s activity in the world - displaying great divine power with supernatural results - that arouses people’s awe and wonder – and it bears witness to God Himself.

The Scriptures tell us that God Himself is the One who performs “miracles” or “wondrous things.” (Ex. 15:11; Ps. 86:10; 136:4; Ex. 7:12; Ex. 8:18-19; 1 Kings 18:17-40) There is nothing too hard for our God!

### Examples of Miracles in the Bible-

- OT- **Creation (of everything from nothing)**, Moses’ rod made into a serpent, 10 plagues in Egypt, splitting of Red Sea, manna from heaven, water from a Rock, River Jordan parted, Jericho’s walls come down, dead raised to life, drought & rain, Elijah’s sacrifice consumed by fire from heaven, iron caused to swim, widows oil multiplied, These were a demonstration of the power of God, brought God glory, and attested that He alone is God! (1 Kings 18- “that this people may know that You are God!”)
- NT- Christ’s **virgin birth**, Jesus’ **Incarnation**, in Jesus’ earthly ministry (blind given sight, lame walk, dead are raised, demon possessed are freed, infirmed are restored to health, lepers cleansed, storm is calmed, walking on water, cursing of fig tree, draught of fish, etc), the **Resurrection** of Jesus, and miracles performed by/towards the apostles (Ananias & Sapphira struck dead, Apostle Paul’s viper bite, boy restored to life, etc.) & others

The incarnation (“The Word Became Flesh”) of Jesus as the God-man and Jesus’ resurrection from the dead are the central and most important miracles in all history. They are essential to our salvation and to the Christian faith!

Speaking of salvation.... The most wonderful miracle we see take place today is when God’s power is marvelously demonstrated in the changing of the sinner’s heart & nature - and making them a new creature in Christ Jesus! (2 Cor. 5:17) Born from above, walking in newness of life. If that doesn’t arouse you to awe & wonder, it’s time to feel your pulse!

### Purpose of Miracles- [“Systematic Theology” Wayne Grudem, Zondervan, 1994]

- 1) To authenticate the message of the gospel. (Jn 3:2; Heb 2:4)
- 2) To give evidence that God is truly at work and so serve to advance the gospel (Jn.4:29; Act 8:6-8, 9:35)
- 3) To bear witness to the fact that the kingdom of God has come (Matth 12:28; Luke 4:18)
- 4) To help those who are in need (Matth 20:30; Matth 20:34; Matth 14:14)
- 5) To remove hindrances to people’s ministries (Matth 8:15; Phi 2:27; Act 9:40-41; Act 9:36 1 Cor 12:7)
- 6) To bring glory to God (Matth. 9:8; Jn. 9:3)

Jesus’ miraculous signs attested that He had come from God (Jn 3:2; Jn 2:11; Act 2:22)

### Related Biblical Terminology-

[“Systematic Theology” Wayne Grudem, Zondervan, 1994]

- “Sign” (Gk. say-mi-on) = something that points to or indicates something else, especially God’s activity and power
- “Wonder” (Gk. ter-as) = an event that causes people to be amazed or astonished
- “Miracle” or “mighty work” (Gk. doo-nam-is) = an act displaying great power, especially divine power
- “Signs and wonders” is often a stock phrase for miracles. (Ex. 7:3; Act 4:30; 2 Cor. 12:12)

### Jesus’ Eight Signs/Miracles in Gospel of John- [from J.MacArthur’s Study Bible]

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| 1. Turns water into wine (2:1-12)                    | Jesus is the source of life.           |
| 2. Heals an official’s son (4:46-54)                 | Jesus is master over distance.         |
| 3. Heals a lame man at the pool of Bethesda (5:1-17) | Jesus is master over time.             |
| 4. Feeds 5,000 (6:1-14)                              | Jesus is the bread of life.            |
| 5. Walks on water, stills a storm (6: 15-21)         | Jesus is master over nature.           |
| 6. Heals a man blind from birth (9:1-41)             | Jesus is the light of the world.       |
| 7. Raises Lazarus from the dead (11:17-45)           | Jesus has power over death.            |
| 8. Causes abundant catch of fish (21:6)              | Jesus is master over the animal world. |
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## **John Chapter 2 – The 1st Sign/Miracle of our Lord Jesus Christ - Turning Water into Wine!**

[We can connect the word “signs” in John 2:11 and with “signs” in 20:30]

The miracles our Lord Jesus performed are very powerful & convincing proofs that He truly is God!

**Wedding** (v 1)- an important 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish social event. They could last up to a week. Paid for by groom. It ended the betrothal period. On the wedding night the groom and his friends would go to the bride’s house and escort the whole party to the groom’s house for the ceremony and festivities.

**Jesus’ mother** (v 2)- John never refers to Mary by name in this gospel. Since Jesus and Mary attended, this could’ve been a wedding for a friend or relative. “By attending a wedding & performing His first miracle there, Jesus sanctified both the institution of marriage and the ceremony itself.” J.MacArthur’s Commentary on Gospel of John

**No more wine** (v 3)- Mary must have been involved in serving at this wedding as she is aware of the need. Wine was a common, staple drink at this time. Grape juice easily fermented in this hot climate without refrigerator, resulting in an alcoholic drink. To tone it down so people wouldn’t get drunk, it was diluted with water. The Bible doesn’t forbid drinking wine (Ps. 104:14-15; Prov. 31:6; 1 Tim. 5:23), but it does condemn drunkenness (Prov. 20:1, 23: 29-35; Rom 13:13; 1 Cor. 5:11; Eph. 5:18). For the wine to run out at a wedding would be an embarrassment to the groom, and he & his family could suffer a lawsuit and this couple could forever live with the stigma of being “that couple who were so cheap, they didn’t have enough wine at their wedding!” This was a real problem for this couple in 1<sup>st</sup> century ancient Israel. The topic of whether it is right or wrong to drink wine is for another time (remember, Jesus is the focus here!)

**Woman, why do you involve me?** (v 4)- Maybe since Mary had watched Jesus His whole life she expected Him to perform a miracle, or it could be that since Joseph isn’t mentioned (he could have died by now) Mary turned to her first born son for help or maybe she was prompting Him to publicly reveal Himself as the Christ, the Messiah she had come to know Him to be. Jesus’ reply is not disrespectful but it is abrupt, and not an intimate mother/son conversation (‘woman’ is similar to “Ma’am” or “Lady”). Their relationship is not the same now as it was when he was growing up in Nazareth for it has moved from a parent/child to a believer/Savior relationship. God the Father has sent His Son on a mission, His public ministry has commenced, and His Father is orchestrating Jesus’ steps, not Mary or anyone else.

**My hour has not yet come** (v 4)- Jesus’ “hour” refers to Jesus’ death and ultimate glorification. But Jesus was on God the Father’s timetable, and it was not yet time to reveal His cross, resurrection, & ascended glory.

**Do whatever He tells you** (v 5)- Well, Jesus hadn’t yet given Mary a “No” for an answer. For years she’s known something is different about Jesus’, so possibly she anticipates something is going to happen and she instructs the servants to follow Jesus’ instructions.

**Six stone water jars** (v 6) - held water for ritual purification and there was enough for all the guests and items that needed to be washed. And it was water, H<sub>2</sub>O, all water, water by nature – but not for long!

**They filled them to the brim** (v 7)- this is a neat detail in that it proved nothing was added to the water, no trickery, no instant packets of wedding wine! There would be no other explanation than Jesus’ divine power to change what was first water into what was later a completely transformed liquid called wine!

**You have saved the best (wine) until now** (v 10)- Ah! you didn’t do this the conventional way! The head waiter tastes and was astonished! Usually the best wine was served first, and once people had drunk freely, the cheaper/poorer wine would be used. Jesus made real wine, and it no doubt was the sweetest, best looking & tasting wine ever! And this wine did not come about through the normal fermentation process – the Lord Jesus miraculously created it – brought it into existence from nothing other than regular water! This proves the deity of Christ, He is our Creator God! (John 1:3 – nothing, not even wine, comes into existence apart from Jesus’ ability to create!)

**The first of signs through which He revealed His glory** (v 11)- by this first miracle Jesus manifested His glory and put His deity on display. Jesus’ miracles reveal who He really is – The Word/God made flesh – and God is at work on earth performing wondrous things that arouse our awe (John 2:23; 3:2; 4:54; 6:2,14; 7:31; 9:16; 20:30). All the details of the wedding fall into the background, and Jesus Christ (our wondrous God) takes center stage – that’s the purpose of this sign.

**His disciples believed** (v 11)- just because Jesus performed miracles, it was no guarantee people would believe. There’s no statement of any of the wedding guests believing...but that’s not the end of the story! The disciples had heard John the Baptist’s testimony regarding Jesus as Messiah, they had personally met and heard Jesus’ own words, they believed upon Him, and now they see this first miracle, this first confirmation of the faith they now held dear. John recorded this first miracle (sign) and 7 more, and we know why..... **“but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”** John 20: 31