

John 2:1-12

¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

1 Cana is just north of Nazareth about six miles. This may have been one of Jesus brother's or relative's marriage as Mary has a prominent role. The third day is Tuesday and is still the traditional day of Jewish weddings because of the double pronouncement of "good" (Genesis 1:9-13).

² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

2 Some of the disciples had stayed with Jesus. Maybe it was just the ones mentioned in the previous chapter. He was already recognized as a traveling rabbi with disciples. He will call the 12 later.

³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

3 Mary feels responsible in some way and thinks Jesus has the power to do something about it. The seven-day feast was supposed to provide wine (symbolic of joy; Luke 2:10) during the whole time. Perhaps there were more guests than expected.

⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

4 "Why is it my responsibility?" Did Jesus think the time for miracles had not yet come? It is just a temporary earthly dilemma, not as if someone would die.

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

5 Mary put Jesus on the spot! We should note that she has the authority to command these servants, thus showing a relationship with the house. The Commandments say to honor your father and mother. Now what?

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

6 Stone jars - as these can be purified according to the law. Archeologist look for stone jars to verify a Jewish residence. A small amount of water would be poured over the hands before a meal. It is still the custom today, and special silver pitchers are available for this purpose in Jewish restrooms. The six jars hold between 120 to 180 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.

7,8 I can only guess that Jesus prayed and got the go ahead from the Holy Spirit. You will enjoy The Chosen rendition of this chapter. They filled the jars and Jesus immediately said to serve it. Imagine the shock when the servants smelling the fermented juice. Weddings must be important to God! It happened one time in Wayside. The grape juice fermented. When the ushers handed me the juice, I could immediately smell it.

When everyone drank it, you could hear the surprise. HA! But that was nature, not a miracle.

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."

^{9,10} When Jesus makes it, it is the best! The master of the feast was surprised. It was better than the first wine which was obviously opposite of the traditional way.

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

¹¹ This was a messianic sign because of Genesis 49:10,11.

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

¹² At this point the family is still with him, but the brothers will soon decide He has gone too far. Only after the resurrection were they convinced. See also Matthew 9:15; 22:1f; Revelation 19:7-9.

Questions:

Can you retell this in your own words?

What does this tell us about God?

What does it tell us about man?

What does wine represent later in the Gospel?

What is this story teaching you or prompting you to do?