

Jesus Provides and Purifies

John 2:1-11 ¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ 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." 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.

❖ Introduction

➤ 127 nuances about Jesus... WOW....

➤ John's Purpose

- John 20:30–31: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

❖ Question: Why this Story.

➤ What is the point of John starting with this story?

- Is it to tell us it is ok to drink? That wine is ok...
 - Alcohol is a secondary issue in this story
 - Very few commentators or good preachers spend a lot of time on the issue of alcohol...
- Is Jesus telling us that the marriage ceremony is important to Him?
 - Is this a story to be used in defending the necessity of a marriage ceremony
 - Probably not

➤ Summed up in vs 11

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

➤ Your Response to this story should EQUAL The Response of the Disciples

- They saw Jesus' glory manifested
- They believed on Him...

➤ John wants his reader to be drawn to Jesus...

- He wants to suck you into the story...
- He has already introduced Jesus and a bunch of His attributes....
- And you see Him calling followers....
- Now He begins His ministry...
- His ministry then is important to YOU... Today.... We begin to learn who God is by observing the Son

❖ The First Miracle

- Can you get excited about this?
- Can you engage your mind with this story?
- That makes this story SIGNIFICANT

➤ John records 8 different sign Miracles in His Gospel....

- 1) Water to Wine 2) Healing the Nobleman's Son 3) Healing the Paralyzed man 4) Feeding the 5,000
- 5) Walking on the Water 6) Giving Sight to the blind 7) Raising Lazarus from the dead 8) Providing Fish for Disciples fishing nets...

- **Jesus did thousands of Miracles... with the intent purpose of showing His glory... for people to believe**
 - EX: The Blind Man...
 - ◆ John 9:1-3 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.
 - EX: The Pharisees
 - ◆ John 10:37-38 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”

➤ **We Have Seen Miracles here**

- Leukemia Healed
- Children Born when they shouldn't
- A man lost overboard found floating 23 hrs later
- My Salvation was a Miracle... And all of yalls...
 - Really.... You are a preacher... Avery Dixon... a Dixon??? Not sure what that says about my family

➤ **My prayer...**

- **For those of you who Know you Have Been Saved...**
 - May your Faith increase...
 - That your Believing would Grow
- **For those who are lost, or think they might be...**
 - See the Miracle producing Jesus as He is...
 - As our Savior God

❖ **4 points Today – I'll Recap them when we are finished**

- 1) Jesus Doesn't pick favorites
- 2) Jesus Purifies
- 3) Jesus Provides
- 4) Jesus is Truly Miraculous

❖ **Setting in the text**

- ¹ **On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.**
 - The Third Day – 3rd day since he called his last disciple...
 - Or the next successive day since John begins keeping count...
 - Cana in Galilee – not far from where Jesus grew up
- ² **Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.**
 - **The Wedding.... A Huge event... And Jesus was invited...**
 - These weddings would last for a whole week.....If you were rich maybe 2 weeks...
 - And people just took off work.... They would just leave their fields or businesses or the market..
 - A wedding was a huge event in the community...
- ³ **When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”**
 - Mary probably had a part in the wedding week... because she was concerned with them running out
 - This was very embarrassing...
 - It probably showed that whoever was getting married was not well off
 - Or they had WAAAAAY to many people for the wedding...
 - People forgot to RSVP and showed up anyway...
 - So... Mary takes the problem to her Son...
- ⁴ **And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”**
 - But Jesus kind of shrugs her off a little bit....
 - Saying it was not yet His time...
- ⁵ **His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”**

- So Mary backs off, but... she knows her Son... She knows His kindness... and obviously His power...
- Whatever He tells you.... Even if it is something odd....
- And it was....
- ⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
 - Cleaning Pots... places to wash your hands off
 - The Jewish people had laws and had to clean themselves before eating and drinking...
- ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.
 - So they fill them up all the way to the top
- 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.”
 - **The Master of the Feast... - was in charge of the wedding ceremony...**
 - making sure the guests were taken care of
 - Making sure the food was prepped and the wine was served....
 - But He was amazed at the water made wine by Jesus... (although he didn't know where it was from)
 - **What kind of wine was it...**
 - It was that alcoholic kind...
 - ◆ There were no preservatives or refrigeration in those days...
 - ◆ And they would make juice from all kinds of fruits...
 - ◆ And it did not take it long to begin fermenting....
 - So... it was definitely fermented...
- ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

³ 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.”

❖ 1) Jesus Doesn't pick favorites

- **The wine ran out**
- **Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come....**
 - He calls Mary.... Woman...
 - This would be like calling her lady today...
 - Today in our society to call a female... WOMAN! Can be very disrespectful....
 - Except we jokingly say it... But there are times when a man becomes frustrated with a woman
 - And he will say... Woman.... Leave me be... (or something like that)
- **Lady –**
 - **Jesus is just referring to her in a respectful way as a female...**
 - He uses the same language from the cross as He is dying...
 - **John 19:26** “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”
 - **But he does not refer to her as mother.... Which He very well could have...**
 - He could have easily said... **Mother**... Why are you bothering me with this...
 - He is distancing Himself from earthly physical relationships...
 - **EXAMPLE:**
 - **Mark 3:32-35** “And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” ³³ And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my

brothers?" 34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

- Luke 11:27-28 As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" 28 But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

▪ **Praying to Mary.... (I pray you understand this and see me coming with love)**

- This kind of shoots a hole into that doesn't it...
 - ◆ It is important to see this... Jesus never glorifies His mother...
 - ◆ He would not even call her blessed for giving birth to Him....
 - ◆ He said the person who hears the Word of God and hears it is blessed...
- If you spend time praying to Mary... you are wasting your time...
 - ◆ She is not your Mediator ... Jesus is.... (That is a lie from Satan)
 - ◆ He is twisting the truth.....
 - ◆ 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
- **Mary is not divine....**
 - ◆ She was a great woman...
 - ◆ But....She can not hear thousands of prayers... Only God can...
 - ◆ Don't take away the glory that belongs to God and apply it somewhere else...

▪ **Some people will take this story and say this is how it works with Jesus...**

- You go to Mary with the problem... (like the wine running out)
- And then she goes to Him...Then He does it...

▪ **The problem...**

- He pretty much told her not to bother Him....

➤ **Why are you bothering me with this?... My time has not yet come...**

- **My hour** – we know this to be the hour of His death
 - John 12:27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.
 - ◆ The hour when He would suffer and die for the sins of mankind...
 - ◆ Even here He is thinking ahead to this time...
- **It would be at the cross where Jesus would be Lifted Up...**
 - And being lifted up He would draw mankind to Him...

➤ **Jesus came here to be about His Father's business...**

- When He was 12 years old He told them as much...
 - Luke 2:49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (about my Father's business)
- He was here as a man... but He wanted even His mother to remember that He came as God...
- **And He came with a mission....**

➤ **Why should this cause our rejoicing....?**

- **All People come to Jesus the same way... by faith....**
 - No Physical Relationship on this earth can gain anyone any special rapport
 - Not Even His mother.....
 - For you.... You can come to Jesus regardless of who you are, or what family you were born into...!
- **Jesus continue to go out of His way to not allow earthly bonds**
 - To have any role in the salvation of the person....

- And that is the truth
- **If Mary or His brothers or Sister**
 - Did not believe on Him as their Savior God...
 - They would not have gone to heaven...
- **All men come to Christ by FAITH...**
 - Jesus would not make an exception and say...
 - Well... for you it is ok because you were my physical brother...
 - That is GOOD NEWS

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.

❖ 2) Jesus Purifies

➤ Purification Jars....

- Big Huge Jars.... Holding 20 to 30 gallons of water...
- John wasn't sure... so He just estimated...
- The jars were cut from stone.... Not earthen vessels...
 - And this meant that the vessel would not be contaminated...

➤ They washed in these jars

- It was important for the Jewish people to be pure...
 - One of the ways they did this was by cleaning with water A LOT....
- So they used these pots to wash their hands...
- Sometimes cups and other vessels... even tables were cleaned with this water...

➤ Jesus tells them to fill up the Jars with Water.... And they do it...

➤ Jesus Purifies...

- Takes the water used for washing hands... and turns it into wine...
- The use of these jars is significant in this story....
- He could have used another type of vessel, but He uses purification jars....

➤ It is Symbolic of His working in Salvation...

- Wine – Is symbolic for His blood...
 - That is scattered throughout the N.T.
 - During the Lord's Supper... He says the wine is His blood poured out....
- The Purification Jars – Symbolic for Cleansing...
 - He replaces that water.... With wine...
 - So, the purification jars are now filled symbolically with blood...
 - ◆ Symbolically

➤ What is He saying?

- He is foreshadowing His Death... and what it would mean...
- We must come to the purification vessel....
- The earthly vessel cleaned our hands and our bodies....
- But Jesus will cleanse us of our sins...

➤ Revelation 7:14 And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

➤ Why should this cause us to WAKE UP and want to know Jesus?

- You need to be dipped into the blood filled purification jar
- To rid you of your sin.....To purify you

❖ 3) Jesus Provides

- **So, We see Jesus does the Miracle**
 - Even though He told His mother it was not His concern that the wine ran out...
 - He goes on to do the miracle
- **The Miracle Glorifies Jesus...**
 - As we see in vs 11 He showed His glory, and His disciples believed on Him...
- **Jesus shows He is our provider...**
 - The Groom was supposed to make sure there was enough food and drink for everyone...
 - But He did not.... Either because He didn't have enough money.... Or too many people showed up...
 - So often... Earthly providers let us down... Don't they....
 - But not Jesus....
 - The groom was about to let His wife and the entire wedding party down....
 - But Jesus will never fail us...
- **Jesus provides abundantly...**
 - Six 20-30 gallon jars.... WOW... that is an insane amount of wine....
 - That could be 180 gallons... that is a lot of wine...
- **What does this have to do with us?**
 - **Everything!**
 - Jesus still provides even today....
 - Mary kind got pushed away at her request, yet He still did it.... He still provided for these people...
 - **What do you need?**
 - Go to Jesus with it....
 - He will provide...
 - We have not because we ask not... and when we do ask we ask in an unbelieving way...
 - ◆ That is what James says....
 - **Jesus says – ASK ME....**
 - **You will find:**
 - ◆ When you are seeking God with all your heart...
 - ◆ And prayerfully praying
 - ◆ And believing... He will provide abundantly for you...
 - **You will also find...**
 - ◆ It is very difficult to pray in a believing manner when you are living in known sin...
 - ◆ Remember that
- **So, what about Jesus and the Bible's stance on the drinking of Alcohol...**
 - **Where do I stand... so you know what your Pastor's position**
 - I abstain totally... throughout my whole life... not a drop...
 - Except for any that may have been in some Nyquil
 - But... I have a few brief points here....
 - **1) Drinking alcohol must be fine with Jesus... cause He made it for them...**
 - Do remember the context of these days...
 - Even their water would be mixed with wine to make the water drinkable...
 - But nonetheless... we see alcohol is not the devil....
 - ◆ Its just close...
 - **2) Becoming Drunk is a grave sin in God's eyes**
 - We are never to drink to get drunk...
 - **Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,**
 - **3) Drinking can Be a Stumbling Block for others...**
 - So you must be very careful with it...

- Especially for children...
 - ◆ Jesus said it is better we be thrown into the ocean than to cause a child to stumble...
- Its illegal until your 21... so it is a sin regardless... for younger people
- **4) Alcohol is Dangerous**
 - Proverbs 23:31-32 Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. 32 In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder.
- **5) Wine is a gift from God**
 - If drank responsibly and with thankfulness....
 - It can be done in a praiseworthy manner
- **Personally I abstain....**
 - Because I have an addictive personality...
 - ◆ In many things... I just do... So... I am trying to be wise
 - Biggest Thing – it has left me with a bad taste in my mouth... (figuratively)
 - ◆ Because of the destruction I have seen it cause within my own family
 - ◆ Death and Divorce and Physical Abuse and bad health and led to Death
 - ◆ For some at a very young age... and others later on

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.”

❖ 4) Jesus is Truly Miraculous

- **Turns Water into Wine (Jesus does NO mediocre miracles)**
 - Lots of Wine
- **Remember the Verses we Looked at already**
 - The blind man is healed so God is glorified
 - The Pharisees are told to believe because of the miracles....
- **Believing on Christ because He is Supernatural.... Is a good thing...**
 - Believe on Jesus because of His Works....
 - These Miracles in their context were not disputed by those who opposed Jesus...
 - You never see these guys saying He did not do the miracles...
 - They just tried to misplace the power and say it was the devil doing the works...
 - If His biggest enemies did not deny His miracles.... Neither should we...
- **Jesus Miracles Increase our belief on Him....**
 - We can look through the gospels at all the things He did and just say WOW....
 - And we should remember what John wrote about Him....
- **Jesus Miracles Should Enhance our Prayer Life...**
 - Knowing that Jesus brought **Lazarus** up from the dead... helps me when I pray for others to be healed
 - Knowing He **walked on water** – helps me know He can defy physics if needed
 - Knowing He made the **blind** to see and the lame to walk
 - Helps me know He can reverse long term physical problems...
 - Knowing He turned the **water into wine**....
 - Lets me know He provides even things that are not absolute needs....

❖ Recap and Invitation

- 1) Jesus Doesn't pick favorites
- 2) Jesus Purifies
- 3) Jesus Provides
- 4) Jesus is Truly Miraculous