

The First Sign:

Turning Water Into Wine

TEXT:	John 2: 1- 11
KEY VERSE:	John 2: 10

prologue

Signs give us direction. They tell us where and how to go. In the book of John, Jesus' miracles are called signs because they are intended to teach us a truth that points us to faith in Jesus.

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.

John 20:30-31 [ESV]

All these signs are for one purpose, to convince you to believe in Jesus.

Turning water into wine

Jesus had not begun his ministry yet. He had begun to choose his disciples, but he had not done any teaching, or worked any miracles yet. He, his mother, and his disciples had been invited to a wedding in Cana, in Galilee.

The father of the bride had committed an unforgivable faux pas of being short on wine. This was obviously a family friend, so Mary wanted to save him the embarrassment of admitting his error. She immediately thought of her son.

Enter: "Mom":

Quietly she comes to Jesus, "Son, there out of wine." Isn't it just like mom to presume? Jesus' response was not disrespectful, more like, "Dear lady, this isn't my problem. I'm not ready to start this kind of thing yet." (Perhaps, as a human like us, Jesus needed mom to give him a little push start.)

I. The best advice anyone ever gave - 2: 5.

"Do **whatever** he tells you." In five words, Jesus' mother solved all the world's problems! Most people ignore her advice, but that day the servants listened. They took an **enormous** step of faith in this unknown Prophet.

II. The most unusual wine bottles ever filled - 2: 6.

"Six, stone water jars had been set there for the Jewish purification. Each contained 20- 30 gallons." (HCSB)

We sometimes read right past things. This was no small task!

Six!

20- 30 GALLON!

STONE!

JARS.

So, these servants faith employed them in some significant labor. Sometimes the faith we have in our Lord demands that we do things that are difficult.

Note how God supplies! When we come up short, the power of Christ (the anointed one, and his anointing) is more than enough. He provided between 120 and 180 gallons of the best wine they ever tasted! (* wine in the Bible often represents joy - Psalm 104:

READ:

2 Corinthians 11:23-33

15, Proverbs 31: 6, 7, Ecclesiastes 10: 19) Our God is a God of abundance. Do not worship wealth, but do not sell yourself short. God wants to bless *you* to bless *others*. (3John 2, Psalm 112, Psalm 1: 2, 3, Joshua 1: 8, Ephesians 4: 28)

Note the extent of their obedience. "So, they filled them to the brim." Hurray for these servants! They went for bust! When Jesus first met Peter, he said, "Let down your nets for a draught." Peter replied, "We've fished all night and caught nothing, but at your word I'll let down *the net*." All those

fish that God instructed to get into Peter's nets had to get into *one* net, and it broke.

Lesson: Obey like a fish - Luke 5: 4- 6

Oh yeah, the pots: "... After the manner of the purifying of the Jews." (KJV)

They were probably for washing the dead for burial, possibly for ritual cleansings enforced by the priests. They were **not** for drinking water. In modern terms, Jesus said, "Go fill the bathtub with water, and dip out of that." Did you notice? They were careful not to let the governor of the feast know where the wine came from!¹ Talk about your "Special Reserve!"

III. The most unusual wedding feast ever seen - 2: 10.

It was the order of things, and still is; you put out the good wine first. When everyone is full, you serve the lesser. It is the nature of things, or "thermal dynamics". Everything in life tends toward decay or decline. We use phrases like, "the good old days." We expect to get old and feeble, "the declining years" we call it.

**WRONG
WAY**

SIGN #1

"The Direction of Your Life Can Be Reversed."

But that's not God's way. - Deuteronomy 34: 7

The first sign to point you to the Son of God says, "Wrong Way." Repent, turn around and go Jesus' direction.

Jesus next encounter was with a pharisee, an expert in the old covenant law. Jesus told him, "You are going to have to be completely reborn from the inside - "of the Spirit." ² How? Just believe on him! ³

"You have kept the best wine until now." ⁴ Whatever the direction of your life has been, give it **all** to Jesus, and your best days are yet ahead. Follow Mary's advice, "Whatsoever he sayeth unto you, do it."

God gave the writer of this book a revelation of how this whole life can end up for you. He said, "Behold, I make all things new." ⁵

1. If you have not, trust Jesus Christ's payment for your sin, and invite him into your heart as your savior.
2. Let him rule every area of your life by obeying his word.

¹ John 2: 9

² John 3: 1 - 7

³ John 3: 16- 18

⁴ John 2: 10b

⁵ revelation 21: 3- 5