

## Water to Wine: Jesus' First Miracle

John 2.1-11

John's narrative of Jesus' ministry arrives in Galilee; at a wedding in the town of Cana He turns water to wine. As a miracle, it tells us something about Jesus; as an event, it makes a statement about marriage; as a sign, it symbolizes the wonder of our salvation.

- Understanding the Event: Jesus' first miracle  
*The setting, the problem, and Mary's request*  
*What Jesus did: Showed Himself to be the creator*
- Practical significance: Jesus honored marriage  
*Jesus chose the setting; John chose to record it*  
*Marriage is important to God: He invented it!*
- Theological significance: Jesus gives salvation joy  
*We're all like those water pots...*  
*Water of works becomes wine of grace*



1. Jesus' turning water to wine at the wedding in Cana is a well-known event in His life. As usual with the Gospel accounts of miracles and teachings of Jesus, skeptics are quick to suggest this story was made up by followers in order to dupe others into believing Jesus was the Son of God. Read John 2.1-11. What details in the narrative reveal that this was written by an eyewitness?
2. The 'crisis' which arises is expressed in v3: They ran out of wine. Why was this such a disaster? Do some research on Jewish marriage and wedding customs. What was betrothal? What event set in motion the wedding ceremony? How long did the festivities last? Why was wine so crucial to this event in Jewish culture?
3. The brief dialogue between Jesus and His mother in vv4-5 has raised many questions, not all of which we can answer! Why do you think Mary tells Jesus the wine has run out? Was she *implicitly* asking Him to do something about it? What does His response suggest? Why did Jesus say "My hour has not yet come"? To what does this refer?
4. What were the stone waterpots Jesus instructed the servants to fill with water used for? What was the basis for this practice (see Mark 7.1-8)? In the context of Jesus coming to earth to take away the sin of the world as the Lamb of God (John 1.29), what did these stone pots represent? What would they represent in modern religion?
5. Concerning the wine which Jesus made from the water, two things stand out. He made the *best* wine – nothing 'average' here! Is there any significance to this? He also made a *lot* of wine – 120 gallons, far more than wedding guests would consume – a wedding present for the newlywed couple! Any significance here? (See John 1.16.)
6. In verse 11, John refers to this miracle as the first of Jesus' "signs." In other words, it was intended to reveal truth about Jesus. What did it reveal? The disciples already expressed faith in Jesus (John 1.37, 41, 45, 49), so what does it mean here that they "believed in Him"?