

## **Theme: What Does this Text REVEAL About Jesus? – Jesus’ First Miracle**

We continue our Epiphany series as we look at various texts from the Gospels to see what they **reveal** to us about Jesus. Today we look at the account of Jesus’ first miracle:

### **John 2:1-11 (EHV)**

Three days later, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there.<sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no wine.”<sup>4</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with you and me? My time has not come yet.”<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”<sup>6</sup> Six stone water jars, which the Jews used for ceremonial cleansing, were standing there, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.<sup>7</sup> Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim.<sup>8</sup> Then he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” And they did.<sup>9</sup> When the master of the banquet tasted the water that had now become wine, he did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew). The master of the banquet called the bridegroom<sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have had plenty to drink, then the cheaper wine. You saved the good wine until now!”<sup>11</sup> This, the beginning of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

In our daily lives **signs** are important. They point us to important things. Whether we are driving on the freeway, or we’re in the buffet line, it’s helpful and sometimes really, really important to pay attention to **signs**. In John’s Gospel he uses the term “**signs**” to refer to Jesus’ miracles. He uses that term here in the last verse of our text and he tells us that this miracle of changing water into wine at the wedding of Cana in Galilee was the “**the beginning of his [Jesus’] miraculous signs**” (v. 11a). In other words, this was Jesus’ first *miracle*. The miraculous **signs** that Jesus performed during His time on this earth point us to some important things about Jesus. Well, what did this miraculous “**sign**” point to? What does **Jesus’ first miracle REVEAL to us about Jesus?**

John answers that question for us in our text, and from this account of Jesus’ first miracle we can see reasons why Jesus performed miracles while He was here on this earth. In fact, can you even imagine Jesus not performing any of these miraculous “**signs**” during His life on earth? Think about it: If Jesus never performed *any* miracles wouldn’t it be reasonable to wonder whether Jesus actually was who He said He was: The Savior of the world, the Messiah, the Son of God Himself?

The fact is, of course, Jesus did perform miracles. They were a very important part of His *Epiphany*, His “revealing” of Himself as true God. So the first thing Jesus’ first miracle (and all of His miracles) **reveal** to us about Jesus is **1) It reveals that Jesus is true God**. These miraculous “**signs**” of Jesus’ divinity were a physical way of *pointing to* the spiritual truth that Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah; mankind’s only Savior from sin.

Obviously this first miracle of Jesus, the changing of water into wine, wasn’t as physically impressive as when He fed 5000 men with five loaves of bread and two small fish (**Matthew 14:13-21**); it wasn’t as awe-inspiring as when He caused the paralytic to “**Rise up and walk**” (**Luke 5:17-26**); and it wasn’t nearly as incredible as when He raised His friend Lazarus after He had been dead and buried for four days (**John 11:1-45**). But this first miracle of Jesus is a very good representation of all of His miracles. From this first miracle we learn of some traits that are shared by all of Jesus’ miracles, and in turn, **reveals** some important things about Jesus: **2) It reveals that Jesus is compassionate & generous**.

As I just mentioned, this miracle may seem at first to be far less significant than many of Jesus' other miracles, but whenever I read this account, or preach or teach on this account I am reminded why it is one of my favorites. It's true, no one was healed of a sickness or disease; no one's life was in danger; and no one was raised from the dead. However, in the seeming "insignificance" of this miracle we see very clearly some traits we see in every one of Jesus' miracles: His **compassion and generosity**. No, this wasn't a life-or-death situation, but for this newly married couple this was potentially a very embarrassing situation and not the way they probably had hoped to begin their married life together. For them, it was a personal crisis, and Jesus had **compassion** on them and stepped in at just the right time—His time! He showed His love and concern for the bride and groom who had invited Him to be a guest at their wedding.

In this miracle, as with all His miracles we also see Jesus' **generosity**. He didn't just make wine; He made excellent wine! After tasting it the master of the feast exclaimed to the groom, "**You saved the good wine until now!**" He didn't just give them an extra jug of wine either. If you do the math on the total amount of water Jesus changed into wine in these "**six stone water jars**" (v. 6) that were "**filled...to the brim**" (v. 7) is between 120 and 180 gallons! These wedding feasts traditionally lasted for a whole week (if the groom could afford it), and Jesus literally poured out His blessings on this couple and their guests by providing them with plenty of wine for the remainder of the feast.

Certainly the different miracles Jesus performed had different situations that gave different blessings to different people. Here He blessed the couple and their guests with more wine. In other miracles Jesus blessed the recipients with healing, or the return of one of their loved ones from the dead. However, one of the common threads in all of Jesus' miracles was His over-all purpose in performing them. John tells us about this purpose in his summary of this miracle at Cana in the last verse of our text: "**He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.**" (v. 11b)

In the previous chapter of John's Gospel we read that the first disciples that Jesus had called to follow Him already did believe in Him as the Messiah (see **John 1:38-51**). It's obvious from the verses from the end of John chapter one that these men already believed. This miracle showed them even more of Jesus' glory as true God; it gave them even more evidence that He was the Messiah, their Savior, and it confirmed and *strengthened* their faith in Jesus even more.

This points us to the third important thing that Jesus' first miracle (and all of His miracles) **reveal** to us about Jesus: **3) It reveals Jesus' glory & strengthens our faith in Him**

That's what this miracle did for Jesus' disciples that day in Cana. Does it do the same for us still today? Are you like me that whenever you read one of the miracle accounts there's always a little question that arises in your brain: Does Jesus still perform miracles today? The answer: Without question, He does! The problem is, often times we don't see them or we just aren't looking in the right places. Like this comparatively "insignificant" miracle of Jesus' turning water into wine we often look for some fantastic display of Jesus' supernatural power, and overlook some of the lesser miracles in our lives. How many times have we found our selves in situations like the bride and groom of our text? Maybe it wasn't a life or death situation, but it was a "personal crisis" as far as we were concerned. And yet, Jesus saw us through it, rescued us from it, or completely prevented it from happening to us!

Do we ever stop in wonder and thank Jesus for these seemingly "insignificant" miracles? They are all "**signs**" of His divinity, and of the **compassion and generosity** He has for us, just like He showed this newly married couple in our text for today.

"Well pastor," you might say, "technically, a miracle is a *supernatural* act; an act that goes beyond the normal rules of nature. Jesus doesn't still perform these types of miracles anymore, does He?" Of course He does! He is still true God who rules heaven and earth and can, and does when He pleases, step in and miraculously heal or provide for His people. But the miracles that Jesus performs every day are much

more impressive than those. Yes, miracles like the creation of a human life are incredible, but the creation of *spiritual* life in the heart of a person is infinitely more amazing and beneficial.

- ✝ This miracle Jesus performed for each one of us personally when He converted our hearts and souls from death to life through His Holy Word.
- ✝ He does this through the miracle of baptism—the giving of the Holy Spirit through the water and the Word.
- ✝ He does this through the hearing and reading of His Word, namely Gospel message of salvation through faith in Him.
- ✝ He continues the miracle of preserving that *spiritual* life inside each one of us through this same Word and the miracle of His very body and blood present and given to us in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper.

Jesus' **purposes in performing these miracles** are the same today as they've always been: **Jesus' miracles "revealed his glory" (v. 11b) as true God and Jesus' miracles strengthen our faith.** Like the disciples, we don't believe in Jesus because of the miracles; we believe the miracles because of Jesus!

Do you see the **"signs"**—the miraculous **"signs"** of Jesus? They are important! Don't miss them! They are written down for us in His Word. They are all around us in our everyday lives. They are **"signs"** that **show us His glory** as true God, they point His **generosity** and **compassion**, and they **strengthen our faith**. And yet, they are dwarfed by the most incredible miracle of all: the miracle of His **love**—unconditional, unlimited, and undeserved—which He showed every one of us when He took the punishment of death and hell on the cross for us! His miraculous love didn't end there. He powerfully rose again on the third day to show us the miraculous **"signs"** of His love: the prints of the nails and the mark of the spear. He says to each one of us in His Word, **"Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27).** Amen!