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“God has Saved the Best for Last”

[John 2:1-11](#)

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The first miracle that Jesus performed during his earthly ministry was the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. No one was healed, no one was raised from the dead, and no one was fed by a few loaves and fish. This miracle was purely for the enjoyment of the wedding guests. Like a parent who loves to bless his children, God loves to bless us not based on our performance but based on his goodness. The wine that Jesus miraculously produced at the end of the wedding banquet was the best wine of the banquet—a reminder to us that God has saved the best for last!

1. [John 2:1-11](#) - *“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, ‘They have no wine.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Whatever He says to you, do it.’ Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the waterpots with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, ‘Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.’ And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, ‘Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!’ This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”*
 - a. Water into wine
 - i. The first miracle Jesus performed during his earthly ministry
 1. Unique to the Gospel of John

- ii. Location
 - 1. Cana
 - a. A town in the region of Galilee in Israel
 - b. From the Hebrew word *kana* meaning “place of reeds”
- iii. Scene
 - 1. A Jewish wedding banquet
 - a. Jesus, his mother, and the disciples were present
 - b. No mention of Jesus’ earthly father Joseph; it is believed that Joseph passed away prior to this event
- iv. Miracle
 - 1. The turning of water into wine
 - a. An interesting first miracle
 - i. No one is healed, no one is raised from the dead, etc.
 - ii. Jesus seemed to perform this miracle for the enjoyment of the marriage guests and for the enlightenment of his disciples
 - 1. [John 2:11b](#) – “... and His disciples believed in Him.”
 - iii. Sometimes God performs miracles purely for our pleasure and to open the eyes of our hearts to who he is
 - iv. God delights to do things for us solely because of his love for us
 - v. He doesn’t bless us based on our performance; he blesses us based on his goodness
 - 1. We often miss the “small” miracles Jesus blesses us with while we’re looking for the “big” miracles

2. “*They ran out of wine*”

- a. In the first century, running out of wine at a wedding banquet was a major social embarrassment
- b. Mary brought the situation to Jesus’ attention
 - i. She didn’t directly tell him how to handle it
 - ii. We don’t know if she was expecting him to perform a miracle, as he had not yet performed any miracles
- c. Jesus responded, “*Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.*” ([1 John 2:4](#))
 - i. “Woman” was not a disrespectful term
 - 1. Jesus was communicating that the parental bonds were no longer binding, and he answered solely to God the Father

2. Jesus worked on a divine timetable, and only did that which was the will of the Father
 - a. [John 5:19](#) – *“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”*
 - b. [John 5:30](#) – *“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”*
 - c. [John 8:29b](#) – *“...for I always do those things that please Him.”*
 - d. Jesus discerned that God the Father was calling him to act
 - i. He instructed the servants to fill six stone waterpots with water
 1. Equated to 120-180 gallons of wine
 - e. Miracle was about both the quantity and the quality of the wine
 - i. The master of the feast stated, *“Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”* ([John 2:10](#))
3. The vessels used
 - a. Jesus didn’t use the empty containers from the wine drank earlier
 - i. He used waterpots designed for purification
 1. The Jews highly valued ceremonial washing
 - a. They would use water from purification vessels for ritual bathing for physical cleanliness when approaching God, as a means of recognizing God’s holiness
 - b. He changed the water into wine, which was symbolic of his blood
 - i. He was communicating the importance of internal cleansing through his blood via his sacrifice on the cross, instead of external cleansing to be right with God
 1. The internal cleansing work of a relationship with Jesus where he forgives us of our sins is what makes us right with God
4. Saving the best for last
 - a. God always saves the best for last
 - b. For those who don’t know Jesus in a personal way, this life is “as good as it gets;” for those who have a personal relationship with Jesus, this life is “as bad as it gets”
 - i. This life is full of heartache, betrayal, remorse, and regret
 - ii. We are both the offender and the offended in life
 - c. Jesus came to save us from our sins and rescue us from a sinful world, so that we can forever be in relationship with him without the cares of this world any longer

- d. The first miracle Jesus performed was at a wedding banquet, and the last mention of a wedding banquet in the Bible is the one that Jesus has prepared for us who know him
 - i. [Revelation 19:6-9](#) – *“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!””*
 1. It is a picture of the ultimate fulfillment of the relationship that we have with God now, that will be enjoyed forever because God has saved the best for last

Discussion Questions

1. Read [John 2:1-11](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Pastor Gary said that turning the water into wine was an “interesting first miracle” as no one was healed, no one was raised from the dead, etc. Why then might Jesus have performed this miracle? (See #1a-iv-1a)
3. Have you ever failed to notice “little” miracles in your life?
4. What was Jesus communicating when he said, “*Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me?*” Who was the main authority figure in Jesus’ life? (see #2c-i-1 and 2)
5. What is the significance of the vessels Jesus used for the wine? (See #3a and b)
6. Have you ever over-emphasized external cleanliness and minimized internal cleanliness?
7. What was the significance of the master of the feast stating that they had “saved the best for last?” (See #4a, b, and c)
8. Read [Revelation 19:6-9](#). What does this Scripture tell us? (See #4d and e)
9. How should this shape our thoughts, attitudes and actions while here on earth?
10. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)