

JOHN 2:1-12
JOY IN JESUS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 2 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

This morning we are going to see the first miracle of Jesus and it is a controversial one!

In the Bible passages we will be looking at this morning, this first miracle of Jesus, we see Him turn water into wine at a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee.

Already some of you are becoming uncomfortable. You see, for many today, they see alcohol as being unscriptural, that we should not drink any alcohol, not even wine!

As a pastor, I don't drink alcohol because I don't want to be a stumbling block to someone, especially someone who has had a problem with drinking in the past. But the Bible does not say we can't drink alcohol, it just speaks against being drunk!

But, because this is such a big issue today, many read this passage here in John chapter 2 and they feel that Jesus turned the water into really, really good grape juice!

As we will see, it does not fit the text, nor does it fit the point that Jesus was making!

Let me share with you what one person had to say regarding this issue of wine or grape juice and you will see how some are very passionate about this. We are told,

The miracle of Jesus turning the water into wine is found in John 2:1-11. Some people try to justify the drinking of alcohol by saying that Jesus made alcoholic wine. But was the wine Jesus created alcoholic?

When they ran out of wine at the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus had them fill six water pots to the brim, each of which held about 20 gallons. This would make a total of about 120 gallons. When it was taken to the master of the wedding feast to taste, he was surprised and said, “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).

The good wine in those days was grape juice that had not yet fermented.

The Greek word “OINOS” which is translated wine in the Bible can be either fermented or unfermented wine. We see in Isaiah 65:8, “Thus says the Lord, ‘As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one says do not destroy it’”.

What is the alcoholic content in the new wine in a cluster of grapes? Zero. There is no alcohol in a cluster of grapes.

Also God says in Isaiah 16:10, “No treaders will tread out wine in the presses; I have made their shouting cease.” Again we know the alcoholic content of the new wine that is being treaded out in the grape presses is zero. This wine is only fresh grape juice.

Jesus says in Matthew 9:17, “Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” New wine, which is unfermented wine as we have seen in Isaiah 16:10, 65:8, is not placed into old wine skins because the old wine skins probably have been contaminated with fermentation bacteria which will ferment the new wine. If new wine is placed into old wineskins, then the new wine will become fermented and the fermentation gasses will break the wineskins and the wine will pour out. But Jesus says that you put new wine (fresh grape juice) into new wineskins (which have not been contaminated with fermentation bacteria) “and both are preserved”.

Jesus did not create an alcoholic wine. God's word forbade giving alcoholic wine to someone else. Habakkuk 2:15 says, "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, pressing him to the bottle, even to make him drunk, that you may look on his nakedness." Jesus would have disobeyed God's word as found in Habakkuk and sinned if he had made an alcoholic wine, which was drunk by others. But Hebrews 4:15 says that Jesus "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." Jesus never sinned or He could not have died for us. If He sinned He would have had to die for His own sin.

We have seen in the above scriptures that the wine Jesus made was not fermented. It was fresh grape juice, which is also referred to as wine (OINOS).

To say that Jesus made 120 gallons of fermented wine is blasphemy. God's word says "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

- <https://bit.ly/2SUhD9s>

Again, the Bible condemns drunkenness and that is not the issue here. It was a wedding feast and wine, as we will see, is a picture of joy, and we see that in the Scriptures. We will deal more with this issue as we move on, but I want you to be aware that many feel it was just grape juice and not wine. But again, the picture is lost in grape juice! Welch's just does not cut it!

Also, keep in mind that this is the first miracle that Jesus performed and one of the seven miracles that John speaks of in this Gospel. So it is important and the picture is that John wants us to believe that Jesus is God, that is why he wrote this Gospel and that is why he included this miracle in his Gospel!

I have called this study – ***JOY IN JESUS!***

And I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into five main points and they are as follows:

THE TIME – JOHN 2:1-2

THE PROBLEM – JOHN 2:3-5

THE SOLUTION – JOHN 2:6-7

GO AND SHARE – JOHN 2:8-10

LIFE IN JESUS AND NOT THE LAW – JOHN 2:11-12

So with the remainder of our time this morning we will be looking at the subject of – ***JOY IN THE LORD!***

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 2, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through the Gospel of John!

JOHN 2

VERSES 1-2

First, I want to look at – ***THE TIME*** of these verses.

As you may remember from our previous studies, after John lays the foundation for this Gospel, (John 1:1-18) he then moves to events that transpire over a week or so. (John 1:19-2)

And the way John does this is simple, he starts a new day by saying, “**the next day.**”

Let me show you how this plays out.

Day one is what we see in John 1:19-28.

Then we see day two in John 1:29-34.

Day three is seen in John 1:35-42.

Day four is found in John 1:43-51.

And then in John 2:1 we are told, "**On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee . . .**"

Which seems to put us out to day seven. And John tells us that there was a wedding feast that was taking place in Cana of Galilee.

Keep in mind that Cana was just a small village about 8 or 9 miles from Nazareth. And, as you may remember, Jesus grew up in Nazareth and I am sure most of His family still lived there and thus, they too were invited to this wedding feast.

One of the things that I love about our Lord is that He ministered to people, He did not isolate Himself.

Here He is invited to a wedding feast, and He comes.

And, as you well know, weddings are a time of great joy, of great celebration!

Now some read that, and they are shocked that Jesus would take time off His busy schedule and come to a celebration. They think it is just a waste of time. In fact, for some, He is joining in a worldly celebration.

That reminds me of the Pharisees. They were very legalistic in their beliefs. They might say that what Jesus did was just a waste of time, He should have just gone to the Temple and prayed or studied the Scriptures, or whatever. But to celebrate with common people, sinners, that was below what the Pharisees would do.

But not Jesus. He came to save that which was lost, He came to save sinners, He came to save you and me!

That is why people loved to be around Jesus, He loved them, while the Pharisees made them feel like dirt, like they were not worthy, and the people did not like to hang around them!

How do people feel around us?

I pray that they love to be around us because, like Jesus, we love them, and not like the Pharisees where we make their life miserable!

One writer put it like this, *“He was at this juncture fresh from the most disturbing personal conflict, His work awaited Him, a work full of intense strife, hazard, and pain; yet in a mind occupied with these things the marriage joy of a country couple finds a fit place.”*

(Dods)

Jesus always has time for us, to be with us, to celebrate with us, and to mourn with us during those difficult times!

And I love the fact that Jesus is present at weddings! Spurgeon put it like this, *“Jesus comes to a marriage, and gives his blessing there, that we may know that our family life is under his care.”*

I can't imagine having a family, being married, and trying to do it on my own. I would fail miserably. But Jesus is right in the center of my marriage, my family and I love that fact because He is the One who is guiding and directing our family!

And how important for us to invite Jesus into our entire life because when we do, He is right there with us! And make no mistake about that, we need Him!

Today, as we see wedding celebrations, they are not as big as they used to be. The reason being is the cost, it is crazy how much it costs to have a wedding celebration!

Let me give you an idea of how bad it is. In 2021, the average cost of a U.S. wedding is between \$29,000 to \$31,000, and the honeymoon is not even included!

But in Israel in the first century, weddings were a major social event! And this celebration would last a week and the community would join in and their daily routines would be placed on hold.

And we need to remember that their life was busy, they were an agrarian society, they worked the land and they worked hard six out of the seven days a week and to take some time off and celebrate, it was a welcomed sight! And most of the people were not wealthy, so this was a wonderful time to celebrate together!

What I found interesting is that each evening during this feast they would dress the bride and groom in their wedding robes, and they would parade them around the town with torches in their hands so everyone would congratulate this new couple.

And like I have said, most of the people were poor and thus, this couple were treated like a king and a queen and what a special time this was for them.

Also, after this feast, it was back to work six days a week, and it was hard work, it was back breaking work, but it is what needed to be done to provide for their families.

So to take some time off to celebrate was important to them.

Not only do we see the disciples of Jesus come to this wedding feast; Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael so far, but we also see that "**the mother of Jesus was there.**"

What is interesting is that we don't read much about Joseph after the initial account and the reason being is that Joseph probably died before Jesus began His mission.

In fact, Barclay points that out for us as he wrote, “*There is no mention of Joseph. The explanation most probably is that by this time Joseph was dead. It would seem that Joseph died quite soon, and that the reason why Jesus spent eighteen long years in Nazareth was that he had to take upon himself the support of his mother and his family. It was only when his younger brothers and sisters were able to look after themselves that he left home.*”

Now what takes place next is troubling for some, just as the wine that Jesus made out of the water. Let me show you what I mean as we read through the text and then I will expound on it.

VERSES 3-5

As this joyous celebration continues on, there arises – **THE PROBLEM!**

And we may not think much about this, but the problem they encountered was that they ran out of wine.

If that happened today, many would just go to the store and buy more, but that was not the case here, there were no stores they could go and just buy more wine for this wedding feast.

And to run out of wine was a major social blunder! All the family and friends would not forget what happened this day! And that is not a good thing.

Keep in mind that the rabbis of that day considered wine a symbol of joy. Therefore “**to run out of wine would almost have been the equivalent of admitting that neither the guests nor the bride and groom were happy.**” (Boice)

Also, one writer explained it like this, “**To fail in providing adequately for the guests would involve social disgrace. In the closely-knit communities of Jesus’ day such an error would never be forgotten, and would haunt the newly married couple all their lives.**” (Tenney)

And it would not only be a disgrace to this new couple but also for whoever was overseeing this feast.

Keep in mind that this couple may have been a close relative or friend of Mary and Jesus and maybe that is why Mary is so concerned about running out of wine.

Again, we don't know the role that Mary had at this feast, but I think she was in charge of getting this all together, probably, at least, the wine, and now this!

So, Mary turns to her Son so she may be vindicated of not only being out of wine but possibly that if Jesus shows who He really is, her reputation will be restored!

And notice what Jesus says to His mom, "**Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.**"

When Jesus says, "**My hour has not yet come**" I think that is something that Mary had been waiting for ever since the angel Gabriel had visited her with the news that, as a virgin, she would give birth to a very special Child.

Remember what Gabriel said to Mary about this child, about Jesus, that "**He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**" Luke 1:32-33

And maybe Mary is trying to get Jesus to perform a miracle and usher in His reign on the throne of David, showing everyone who He is!

Author William MacDonald put it like this. He wrote,

Mary had wanted to see Jesus glorified, but He must remind her that the time for this had not yet come. Before He would appear to the world as the all-conquering Christ, He must first ascend the altar of sacrifice, and this He did at the cross of Calvary.

- William MacDonald

Also, as I read this all I can think of is my mom and if I talked to her like that today, even at the age of 62, she would smack me on the back of the head. Yes, she still does that but lately, she has been smacking my brothers! Praise God!

Now as we read that about Jesus, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me?” it does seem harsh. It does not seem to fit the character of Jesus to say the least.

But what comes across in the English is not what is meant in the Greek.

First of all, this word “woman” is not a derogatory word as some like to say, for in John 19:26-27 we see the same word used as Jesus gives His mother to John to care for as He is about to die on the cross of Calvary.

This is what we are told in John chapter 19, “When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.”

Now let me deal a little more with this phrase, “What does your concern have to do with Me?” or in some Bibles it is, “What have I to do with you?”

In regard to this phrase, one writer explains it like this because it is used several times in the Bible and the basic meaning is, “*What do we have in common?*” Which is very interesting.

This is what he wrote,

David uses it twice with respect to his cousins, the sons of Zeruiah. How impossible it was for them to have anything in common with him in the spiritual life! . . . Three times the demons, by using the same expression, reveal how Satan has nothing in common with Christ, or Christ with Satan. And lastly the Lord used it to the Virgin Mary to show how impassable is the gulf between His sinless Deity and her sinful humanity, and that only One Voice had authority for His ear.

- Source Unknown

I find that interesting because Jesus is basically telling Mary that they have nothing in common. He is on a mission from the Father and the things that He does are to please the Father. What Mary was doing was to please others by providing more wine for this celebration. And Jesus's main point is that He will do what the Father directs Him to do.

So what Jesus is going to do is not based on the fact that Mary was pressuring Him to do this, provide more wine, but whatever God the Father tells Him, He will do!

Now in saying that, there is a gentle rebuke here.

Why did He rebuke His mother?

Because His time had not come yet, as I have said.

In fact, in John 17:1 we are told of this time as we read, "Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: 'Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.'"

You see, at this point it was not time yet!

And notice what Mary does here, she says to the servants, “**Whatever He says to you, do it.”**

What is my point?

My point is this. Mary submitted to her Son.

She did not say, “***Whatever I say to you, do it!***”

Please understand that Mary is not Co-Redeemer with Jesus. She was a sinner and in need of a Savior.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that we can go to Mary to seek the forgiveness of our sins and she will go to Jesus for us. You see, Jesus will listen to His mother and do what she asks.

Make no mistake about it, that is not what the Scriptures teach!

The Scriptures teach us that Jesus is the Mediator between God and man, no one else! Not even Mary! And yet, there are some today who think that Mary is the Mediator between God and man. Like I have said, the reasoning goes like this, “***Jesus will listen to His mother!***”

Foolishness!

And think about this, to deliberately go through Mary to get to Jesus is to regard Jesus as hardhearted, and Mary as tenderhearted. This concept “***is totally alien from the Bible. It comes from mother-son ideas prevalent in pagan religions.***” (Barnhouse)

So as Mary speaks to these servants, again I think she was overseeing the wine, and maybe more at this feast, and she tells them to follow whatever Jesus tells them.

Now when we think of servants we think of slaves, but keep in mind that this family was probably very poor, and they did not have servants. So who are these people that are serving at this feast?

Interestingly enough, the Greek word for “**servants**” is DIAKONOIS and we get our English word “***Deacons***” from it!

What that tells me is that these servants were probably family or friends or both who were helping serve the food and the drinks at this celebration. They were assisting the family.

So, we see – ***THE PROBLEM*** and now, as we read on, we will see that Jesus is – ***THE SOLUTION!***

In fact, Jesus is the solution to any of our problems. And, so often, He is the last one we go to. He needs to be the first because He does have the solutions to all we are going through.

We may not like His solution, but I will tell you this. It is what is best for our lives and thus, like Mary, we must surrender to Him, we must submit to His will for our lives.

VERSES 6-7

Here are these six waterpots that could hold thirty gallons of water apiece, and Jesus calls for the servants to go and fill them with water!

Interestingly enough, these water pots were used for purification.

You see, you had to have running water to be ceremonially clean; still water was no good.

Thus, these six water pots used in ceremonially purification were connected to the law and look at what Jesus does with these waterpots!

Now before I deal with that and something that is very controversial in some churches, look at the obedience of these servants. They didn’t know all that was going to take place, but Jesus said, “***Do this!***” and they did!

In fact, they not only did it, but they filled these water pots to the brim. What an example for us. You see, they could have been lazy and only filled the pots half-way up, but they filled them to the top, they could do no more.

I wonder how often we only give to the Lord in service half-way and when we are only blessed half-way, we wonder why, or we complain. If God calls you to do something, do it to the fullest!

And, like I have said, the solution is always Jesus. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

We can allow all kinds of things to weigh us down. We can let sickness weigh us down. We can let the death of a loved one weigh us down. We can let the religious trappings of religion weigh us down. We can let our job weigh us down. We can let all kinds of things weigh us down.

And what does Jesus tell us?

He tells us to come to Him!

Why? What good will that do?

Jesus tells us that He wants to give us rest.

He does not want us weighed down with all these things, especially all the heaviness that the Law brings upon people to do this and don't do that, and when we don't match up to what we think God wants, we are weighed down!

Jesus wants us to learn from Him, to rest in Him and understand that the yoke of life He has for us is perfect, it is light and He will guide us, direct us!

And when I say that what I mean is that we will not be broken or weighed down if we come to Him. Life is not easy, sin has caused many problems in this world and in our lives, but our rest, our peace is not in this world or in what we can do, but in Jesus. May we never forget that!

As we read on, we will see Jesus solve this problem and then, what I see emerge from this is that they were to – ***GO AND SHARE!***

And we will deal with this issue of what Jesus did, change the water into wine or into grape juice!

VERSES 8-10

Think about what they did and then what Jesus asks them to do after they filled these waterpots.

As they return filling these waterpots, some 180 gallons worth of water, Jesus tells them to let the master have a taste!

“Are you kidding me! You want us to give the master water to drink instead of wine?

Are you kidding me!”

Now they didn't say that, but I wonder if any were concerned about what was going to happen when they did this or maybe they just acted in faith, trusting what Jesus told them to do!

And I tend to believe that these servants believed, and they obeyed the Lord.

Can you do the same, can you do as these men did and take those steps of faith even when the task seems impossible?

We can have all kinds of excuses why we should not go forward but the problem is that if the Lord calls us to do something, we need to step forward and do it. He knows what He is doing even though we may not.

As you read this story, these men did trust in the Lord and did what He asked them to do!

Now here's the thing. Usually at the feasts they would put out the good wine first because your taste buds are fresh. But as the feast goes on and you eat and drink, you can't tell the difference as much, your taste buds are not as sensitive.

And please understand that I don't believe that drunkenness is the issue here for the Jews looked down upon that kind of activity, nor do I think it was grape juice that they drank, as some like to tell us.

It was wine, maybe not as high in alcohol content as we have today, but it still was wine. Now the master is amazed that the bridegroom did it this way.

But to say that Jesus turned the water into grape juice is foolishness. It was not only wine, but it was good wine! It wasn't Mogen David or Boone's Farm!

Ray Stedman put it like this regarding what this drink was all about, and we have talked about it, but this verse does show us it was the good wine and not good grape juice. Ray wrote,

Some claim that Jesus did not change water into real wine, that all he did was change it into very good grape juice!

I consider that claim so ridiculous as to be hardly worthy of an answer. They do not serve grape juice at Jewish weddings! They never have and they never will!

In fact, in other places in the New Testament where we have warnings against the overuse of wine - of "not being given to much wine" {1 Tim 3:8, Tit 2:3 KJV} - we have clear indication that the wine of that day was indeed intoxicating.

People had to watch it then, just as they must watch it today. Wine was a commonplace drink, one that believers partook of along with everyone else in that culture and climate. Our Lord certainly did change water into real, true, genuine wine.

Actually, the very force of this miracle depended upon the fact that it was good wine. This is confirmed by the amazement of the steward of the feast when he drank the wine.

Can't you see him taking a cup and sipping it, then swirling it around, smelling of it, drinking it again, smacking his lips and saying, "That's Paul Masson, 1979! It's the best wine I ever drank!"

The servants, according to John's account, were smiling to themselves. They knew what had happened. They remained silent - it was not their place to speak - but they confirmed the fact that this good wine came from jars that had been filled with water.

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Now think about this. The first miracle that Jesus did was turn this water into wine. Why did He do that?

Think about it. If God is so against drinking or drunkenness, why did He do this, why didn't He turn the wine into water or the water to grape juice?

Great question!

Remember the six water pots that were used to do this miracle were also used for ceremonial cleansing or purification, it related to the Law that became a heavy weight upon the Jewish people.

Let me just give you one example of this in regard to the Sabbath day.

God said “**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.**” Exodus 20:8-11.

It was to be a day of rest, to spend with the Lord; they worked hard six days a week and they were to take one day off to rest, to fellowship with God.

The problem with that is this day of rest became a day of heavy burdens. God’s simple statement was altered into 24 chapters in the Talmud that dealt with the Sabbath Law.

That was only dealing with the Sabbath day, they had volumes of Laws, things you could and couldn’t do.

They had chapters dealing with the washing of pots and pans. I don’t think my wife would appreciate it if I got her a multi-volume book on how to wash the dishes!

And when you have all these Laws to follow, you know you can’t keep them if you could even remember them all. It was truly a heavy burden for them!

In regard to this Jesus rebuked the religious leaders in Matthew 23:4 as He said, “**For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.**”

In other words, the things they wanted the people to do they could not even do themselves!

That was the Law, no joy, just heavy burdens.

Thus, in this first miracle Jesus takes this water and turns it into wine, a symbol of joy.

You see, out of Judaism, out of the Law, out of the old covenant would come the new covenant that is not based upon our faithfulness to keep the Law, but upon the faithfulness of God who would pay in full the penalty for our sins, and what joy we find in that!

And we need to understand that in the Scriptures, wine spoke of joy. We see that in Psalm 104:15 where we are told, "And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart."

Also, in Isaiah 55:1 we are told, "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price."

In fact, the rabbis had a contemporary saying, "*Without wine, there is no joy.*"

And this water was changed to wine, like I have said, in stone pots that were used for ritual purification, and we saw that in John 2:6, "according to the manner of purification of the Jews." That was the Law!

What was the point that Jesus was making with this first miracle?

That the old religious rituals, this ritual purification was going to pass off the scene. And, as I have said, the wine speaks of the new life we have in Christ and in Him there is that fulness of joy!

F. F. Bruce put it like this, "*Christ (is) changing the water of Jewish purification into the wine of the new age.*"

And Bruce is speaking of the new covenant that is found in Christ and not in the Law, a salvation by grace and not by keeping the Law!

Why are so many Christians angry, bitter, upset? Because they are trying to live up to a certain standard and they are trying to get others to do the same and when they don't attain it, they are not happy.

Not only that but you look at the variety of wines that are out there, and I am not just talking about alcohol, but anything and everything that has that sparkle, that grabs your attention, and then over time that sparkle is gone and that joy you had is gone as well.

Only Jesus can give us that fullness of joy that will never lose its sparkle in our lives unless we turn from Him.

And ultimately, we are waiting for our bridegroom to come and take us home and we will be married to Christ and enjoy that wedding and that marriage supper of the Lamb. I guess you can say that will but the ultimate, there will be complete fullness of joy!

But for the Jews, their Messiah had come, and many had missed Him. John the Baptist said, "**There stands one among you whom you do not know.**" John 1:26.

And the picture here is that for the nation of Israel, the wine had run out, the joy was gone, and yet there, before them was the One who could help them, Jesus!

You see, the Jewish ceremonies could not save them, but Jesus could.

Thus, being stuck in the Law, looking to the Law to save them, they had lost their joy.

If you doubt that, just study the life of Paul before he got saved. He wanted a relationship with God but could not attain it through the Law because the Law could only show him his sin, it could not deliver him from sin.

And when he saw Stephen speaking to God, having a relationship with God, it drove him nuts, so much so that after Stephen was martyred for his faith, Saul or Paul went on a rampage bringing Jews who had come to Christ before the Jewish religious leaders to face their sentence.

But when Jesus got a hold of his heart on the road to Damascus, to gather these Jewish believers, everything changed with Paul and that anger, that frustration was replaced with the joy of the Lord because that joy was based in Jesus!

So this first miracle is related to the New Covenant and thus, it makes sense that it is wine for wine is symbol of joy and there is tremendous joy in the New Covenant that is based in the faithfulness of God and out of it we receive eternal life, the forgiveness of our sins through His shed blood!

And we saw these servants – ***GO AND SHARE!***

May we have that same desire. To share that joy that is found in Jesus, obeying what He is calling us to do!

As we finish up, we will be looking at – ***LIFE IN JESUS NOT THE LAW!***

VERSES 11-12

Look again at what we are told as verse 11 opens up, “**This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee . . .**”

Now we may just read through that and not think much of it. But have you ever heard people say or read articles speaking about Jesus doing miracles as a child? I have and it is foolishness. The Bible does not support that, not at all!

But why use the Bible when there are other sources out there? Okay, a little sarcasm there. Now, in saying that, there are those who will go to the Gnostic writing called “***The Infancy Gospel of Thomas***” and in this false gospel the writer speaks of the many miracles that Jesus did as a child!

One writer gives us this brief insight about this fake gospel. He wrote,

Scholars generally assign the Infancy Gospel of Thomas a late second- or early third-century date. The original language is Greek. The attribution to “Thomas,” a disciple remembered by Christians as “Doubting Thomas” (see John 20:24-29), is false and likely added after the account was already in circulation. A growing number of scholars refer to the text as the Paidika, or “Childhood Deeds” of Jesus.

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I do find it interesting that people will discredit the Bible and they will believe this garbage. Let me show you what I mean, what this fake gospel says that Jesus did when He was a child, and keep in mind that the miracles that Jesus did, according to John, did not take place until this wedding feast in Cana of Galilee!

- Jesus brought a dried fish to life!
- For the next trick, Jesus fashioned birds from clay and then breathed life into them so that they fly away!
- Not only that, but this fake gospel tells us that Jesus healed one of His brothers who was bitten by a snake!
- And just one more and this is disturbing. Jesus curses a boy who immediately turned into a corpse!

I guess kids will be kids! No, that is not Jesus and again, what this fake gospel tells us is totally wrong, because “**This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee . . .**” I hope that is clear! We have the Bible as our source of truth and if it is not truth, then we are in serious trouble and we might as well close up the Bible and head home! But, as Jesus said, it is ***TRUTH!*** (John 17:17)

Here we see that John tells us that Jesus moved on and He goes to Capernaum. The city of Capernaum is located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, and it will become the home base for Jesus and His men. At this point they are going to be on the move, and we will see next time where they are heading.

Also note that Jesus did have brothers, Mary and Joseph had normal sexual relations after Jesus was born and they had children. We are told of four of His brothers; James, Joses, Simon and Judas or Jude plus He also had sisters! (Matthew 13:55-56).

Also, an inscription in the Aramaic language dated from 63 A. D. and found on an empty ossuary or limestone burial box for bones states, "***James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus***" not only telling us that Jesus did exist, it was not a story, but that He had a brother also!

Now at this point they did not believe that Jesus, their brother, was the Messiah. In fact, at times they thought He was nuts, He lost His mind, and they try to rescue Him before He gets hurt.

To just give you one example, in John 7:5 we are told, and this is from The Amplified Bible, "**For [even] His brothers did not believe in or adhere to or trust in or rely on Him either.**"

But after the death and resurrection of Jesus they did believe. In fact, James became the head of the church in Jerusalem and wrote the epistle of James; and Jude wrote the epistle of Jude.

Now what is the point of this miracle and all of the miracles that Jesus did? It was a sign!

What does a sign do?

It points to something like if you are driving out west, to South Dakota, you will see millions of signs, okay, maybe not millions but there are tons of signs pointing you to something.

In fact, most of this place's advertisement billboards can be found on an approximately 650-mile-long (1,050 km) stretch of Interstate 90 from Minnesota to Billings, Montana.

I told you, there are a lot of signs, and I have seen them. And those signs are pointing you to a store called – **WALL DRUG!** Yes, I see some of you have seen those signs before!

These miracles were a sign pointing to the fact that Jesus is the Messiah, Almighty God and the end result of what was done and what the men of Jesus heard – “... His disciples believed in Him.” John 2:11.

Now we might not think much about that but keep in mind what this section is all about – **LIFE IN JESUS NOT THE LAW!**

These men grew up in the Jewish Law, they knew it, they practiced it and now everything was changing for them. Instead of trying to obtain a relationship with God by being good, which they couldn't do, they could now have a relationship with God through Jesus as He was going to pay in full the penalty for their sins and our sins and making them and us righteous before God. Not our righteousness but His imputed into our lives by faith. He took our sin and gave to us His righteousness!

Ray Stedman put it like this. He wrote,

Our Lord is able to take the humdrum, commonplace, ordinary, normal events of any life and with his touch make them full of flavor, fragrance, strength and beauty; to turn them into wine. He will do this with any of us as we faithfully walk with him, follow him, and believe in him. That is why John highlights for us, “there the disciples believed in him.”

- Ray Stedman

And remember what we were told in John 1:17, “**For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**”

Think of it like this. We could say that the water is like a relationship with God under the Old Covenant, and the wine is like a relationship with God under the New Covenant.

How does that play out? Let me show you.

- The wine was after the water, and the New Covenant is after the Old Covenant.
- The wine was from the water, and the New Covenant is from the Old Covenant.
- The wine was and is better than the water; and the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant.

In other words – ***LIFE IN JESUS NOT THE LAW!***

And as we have seen, the home base for the ministry of Jesus is Capernaum, and it seems like His family moved from Nazareth to Capernaum as well.

Bruce put it like this, ***“It appears that the holy family as a whole moved from Nazareth to Capernaum, where Jesus had his headquarters for the greater part of his Galilean ministry.”***

As we will see next time, Jesus is going to head down to Jerusalem, and He is going to cleanse the Temple from all the garbage that was going on in there!

And I want to close with this. If you are trying to approach God through the Law, you will be miserable because you will never be able to attain that kind of righteousness.

But, when you come to Jesus by His grace, through faith there is that joy in your life knowing you are a child of God, not because you are so great, but Jesus is, and He has cleansed you from your sins!

Let me close with this and you will see what we are going to encounter as we go through the Gospel of John.

We are told,

Jesus' first miracle - turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana - is ripe with symbolic echoes of the great themes of Scripture. Why should we expect otherwise? Jesus is not the type to do anything haphazardly.

Moreover, John the Apostle tells us that this miracle is the first of several signs (John 2:11), all of which "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" (20:31).

We should not, however, reduce the miracles of Jesus to mere signs of His power, as if miracles were nothing more than repeated demonstrations of Christ's divinity. Instead, we ought to see them as signs of Jesus' person and work, that is, signs of His divinity and signs of His divine intentions for the world.

In this way, the miracles of Jesus are not so much supernatural violations of "natural order" as they are supernatural restorations to nature ordered rightly, a picture of the way things ought to be. Thus, they point us to that day when sin and sickness and sorrow and death are no more, because Jesus will have made all things new (Rev. 21:4-5).

We can easily see this point in most of Jesus' miracles, such as the feeding of the hungry, the healing of the lame, the exorcism of demons, and the raising of Lazarus and of Jairus' daughter. . . .

- <https://bit.ly/3plpKbh>

John wrote these things so that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God, Almighty God who has come to save us from our sins and one day He will restore this world to what it was like in the Garden of Eden where He will rule and reign for 1,000 years from Jerusalem!