

John 2 Miracle at Cana

Exposition:

v.2 “ran out” of wine same word as:

to lack, be in need 1 Cor 12:24, Luke 15:14

to fall short Romans 3:23

v.6 2 or 3 “measures” each pot KJV 2 or 3 “firkin” Scholars refer to a firkin as being equal to about 9 gallons. That would mean these six water pots full of water turned into between 108 to 162 gallons of wine. This illustrates God's idea of abundance.

v.7 pots filled “to the brim” literally, “until above the top”

v.9 head servant

the superintendent of a dining-room, a table-master. It differs from *the master of a feast, toast-master*, who was one of the guests selected by lot to prescribe to the rest the mode of drinking; But it was the duty of the head servant to place in order the tables and couches, arrange the courses, taste the food and wine beforehand, etc. (Thayer's Lexicon)

v.10 drunk like of men thought drunk, but really full of Spirit Acts 2:15 see also 1 Thess 5:7, Rev 17:6

Why would Jesus choose the easing of a social embarrassment as his first miracle? Why not a healing of a child, etc?

It is more than what it appears, It is a statement of who He is (master, Lord of the feast)

The master of the banquet (v.9-one word in Grk, mstr of ceremonies, one to preside) -one responsible for all have a good time

Jesus shows himself the true master of the banquet there is suffering for me, and will be for you, but the end will be glorious

Observations

If you were crafting a first miracle for the leader of major movement, it wouldn't be this. To begin doing miracles starts his road to the cross.

Mary asks Jesus because she remembers angels' message at his birth-he is special. She know his power, and his love.

Jesus' reply to her is not warm, but much more is on his mind than this wedding, or even the idea of whom he is helping or that he isn't ready to begin miracle activity.

When Jesus says my hour has not yet come, was thinking of 2 things:

- The hour of my death isn't yet "hour" in Jn 7:30, 8:20, 12:23, 13:1 means his death
- His own wedding feast Rev 19

When you go to weddings, you think about your own wedding, who it will be with.

John the Baptist states in Jn 3, the bride is for the bridegroom. I am only a friend of the bridegroom!

Jesus referred to Himself as a bridegroom (Mt. 9:15; Mark 2:19; Luke 5:34)

And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." **27** John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. **28** "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' **29** "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.

Rev 19 marriage supper of the Lamb

Rev 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." **8**It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. **9**Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Why is Jesus abrupt with Mary? He is troubled because he knows He will marry, and He knows what that marriage will require. He is thinking that the only way he can join with his bride the church is to die, to provide the wine of his blood. To enjoy the feast with church, for us to drink of the rivers of grace, with him, he has to drink the cup of sorrow, death, justice. This is the reason He says "may this cup pass from me, but Thy will be done" when in Gethsemane.

Behold the glory in this sign! Jesus is sipping the curse, knowing what the blessing of His feast would require.

Rev 19 speaks of the day when true Church will be revealed in all her purity and beauty.

Eph 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

Why supper of the Lamb?

Would think “Lion of Tribe of Judah” would be description at this stage of time.

But Jesus, even in His highest glory, wishes for us to regard Him as the once for all Sacrifice for sin. (Spurgeon) He was called “Lamb slain” long ago.

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

To reinforce that he is picturing his future death, he produced the wine in the ceremonial washing pots. Men used that water to wash selves, to make them ceremonially clean. Jesus’ blood will make men clean forever.

Verses on blood, Jesus as the provider of Wine

Hebrews 9

9 The Holy Spirit *is* signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, **9** which *is* a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, **10** since they *relate* only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

11 But when Christ appeared *as a high priest of the good things to come*, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; **12** and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. **13** For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, **14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

18 Therefore even the first *covenant* was not inaugurated without blood. **19** For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, **20** saying, “THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD COMMANDED YOU.” **21** And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. **22** And according to the Law, *one*

may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (see Lev 17:11 ‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.’)

23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24** For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; **25** nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. **26** Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Hebrews 10

1 For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. **2** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? **3** But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. **4** For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME **6** IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE. **7** “THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.’”

8 After saying above, “SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE *in them*” (which are offered according to the Law), **9** then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. **10** By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The new covenant is found in the blood

1 Cor 11 **23** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” **25** In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Acts 20:28

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His own blood.**

1 Jn 1:7

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8**If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

How the miracle parallels salvation:

1. We must say to God, I am out (of wine-of any goodness, righteousness)

The groom in John 2 gets full credit for what Jesus did in making the wine—we receive his righteousness from the sacrifice he made for all men

2. Submit to God's timing

What did Jesus mean when was stating that His time had not come and what did the shortage of wine have to do with Him, he was saying: *"It is not time for me to prepare the wine of my own wedding yet."*

It was the Jewish custom for the groom's father to have worked out with the family of the bride the details concerning the wedding arrangement, including the date of the actual ceremony. The Bridegroom would go to his father's house and build a place for himself and his bride to live, usually attached to his father's house. Remember, Jesus told His disciples—probably when their understanding hadn't yet been opened to the fact He was viewing them as His collective Bride: *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* (John 14:3) The Bridegroom would not know when the day was, but sometime after building the house, the father would then tell him "go, it's time." Jesus also told us regarding His return, *"concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."* (Matt 24:36, Mark 13:32)

At that appointed time, the groom and his friends would leave his home and proceed to the home of the bride, where the marriage ceremony was conducted, often at night. Usually a servant was sent first some time ahead of the bridegroom, to 'pave the way' and awaken the bride and the virgins. Since the servant would not know which one was the bride, she would sleep in her wedding dress since the wedding ceremony would customarily be at night, and she more than likely would be awakened from sleep for it. After this the entire wedding party returned to the groom's home for a celebratory feast. This engagement process could last any number of months, possibly a year or more if the bridegroom was preparing their place in a far distance away to travel to, and return from. As mentioned, many of Jesus' parables or teachings

regarding His return to the earth used wedding and marriage imagery they would be familiar with.

Why does this really matter?

It was also the Bridegroom's responsibility to prepare enough wine for the reception and celebration of His *own* wedding. When Jesus was stating that His time had not come and what did that have to do with Him, he was saying: "*It is not time for me to prepare the wine of my own wedding yet.*" Jesus went ahead and did the miracle because it was the Father's timing for him at that moment to perform that miracle. Why? Because Jesus had to give just one more little glimpse that he is a lovesick Lover looking to prepare and present to Himself a pure and spotless Bride one in whom HE makes pure by washing her with His Word!

If I am not rejoicing, am not seen as someone with festal joy, then I don't understand the gospel.

To listen to this teaching, go to <http://fellowshipdalton.com/resources/>, or our Youtube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfFWPxoCJMWe2IRXrRpkaRg>

For a great msg on Rev 19, visit <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols40-42/chs2428.pdf>

For a Summary of the parallels between Christ's marriage and Jewish tradition, visit

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/revelation/related-topics/the-jewish-wedding-analogy.html>