

=MIRACLES OF CHRIST=

Lesson 2

The Changing of the Water into Wine

AIM: to teach my pupils the truth of this miracle, as recorded in John 2:1-12.

POINT OF CONTACT: There are unlimited possibilities here. You might lead the class to act out a wedding ceremony. You might even bring some grape juice and little glasses or paper cups and serve them to get the attention of the pupils.

INTRODUCTION: This miracle certainly has much significance. Anytime Jesus does something first, it has special significance. There is a purpose, or better still, there are purposes why He chose to make this His first miracle. Let us notice the teachings of the miracle.

- I. THE STORY OF THE MIRACLE ITSELF. (John 2:1-12) (Go through the story. First, we should teach exactly what happened, and then we will go to the next two points which deal with the practical and doctrinal teachings of the miracle.)

- II. PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.
 1. Jesus should be invited to every wedding. This should be stressed to the children. In fact, all unmarried people should be taught that Jesus should be invited to the wedding. This means that a saved person should marry only another saved person. The ceremony should be Christian.
 2. Jesus should be invited into your home. No home can be happy or content without the Lord Jesus Christ. You might have the pupils give some ways that we can include Jesus in our home. Examples of these would be grace at the table, family devotions, Christlike spirit, prayer, Bible reading, etc.
 3. Jesus is for marriage. Paul said in Hebrews 13:4a, "Marriage is honourable in all." No doubt Jesus foresaw that some hereafter should arise in religion who would despise marriage, or at least forbid marriage, for certain of the leaders. (See I Timothy 4:3) Jesus is showing us that He is for marriage. He dignified it by choosing a marriage at which to perform His first miracle.
 4. We have a tremendous teaching from Mary here in the one little phrase found in John 2:5, "... Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." This is profound and yet simple, great and yet small, hard and yet easy. Wrapped up in this statement is the key to all service, happiness and usefulness for Christ. If He said it, do it. If we find it in the Bible, we should believe it and do it.
 5. God uses human instruments to perform His miracles. Notice there were waterpots of stone used. Then notice in John 2:7, the servants had to fill the waterpots with water. Jesus is about to perform a miracle, but He uses human instruments in doing it. Salvation is a miracle, but the miracle of salvation is wrought only with dedicated instruments such as you and I. God always uses human instruments. God could raise a corn crop in the Chicago loop, but He probably will raise it in the country and give a farmer the strength to do the work. Then God does the miracle of germinating the seed, giving the rain, the sunshine and the harvest. God uses people. He wants to use you!
 6. God can use any old vessel for His service. These were old waterpots out beside the road, but God could use them. It does not matter how little our gifts or how weak or limited our talents, God can use us. God could still whip many Goliaths if He had some yielded Davids.
 7. God wants to be in every phase of our life. It is interesting that Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding, for He came to sanctify all human life, to consecrate its times of joy as well as its times of sorrow. He came to enter into every phase of our lives. We should never do anything or go anywhere where we could not invited Jesus to go with us. (Teacher, you could certainly dwell on this with the children.)
 8. Jesus' provisions are the best. (John 2:10) His wine was the best. This is always the case. If a person will serve God and live for Him, He will have the best life possible.
 9. Jesus gets better and better. The world is better at the first and then gets worse. Notice that in Christ the refreshments got better. This is always the case. The best part of Satan's work is his advertisement. The best day you will spend in sin is the first day, but with Jesus, the days get better and better!

III. DOCTRINAL TEACHINGS.

1. The true relationship of Mary is found in John 2:4. Probably Joseph was dead by now. The absolute silence of Scripture leaves hardly a doubt that Joseph died before Christ's open ministry began. He is last mentioned on the occasion of our Lord's visit as a child to the temple in Luke 2:41-52. Now Mary is with Jesus at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. Notice He says to her, "Woman, what have I to do with thee?" This is found in verse 4. He did not call her "mother" but "woman." In fact, the teaching is implied to be a little harsh. This would have been a good place for Jesus to have said, "Blessed art thou among women," etc. This would have been a good place for Jesus to have explained to us the immaculate conception, but rather He chooses to call her "woman." He is now entering His public ministry. Though she is still his physical mother, this makes her one of His followers and also a sinner saved by grace. It would be interesting at this point to turn to Luke 1:47. You will notice here that Mary says that God was her Saviour. She admitted the fact that she was a sinner because only sinners need a Saviour. Then in verse 48, she mentions her low estate. People have given her a high estate. In His very first miracle, realizing that people would pray to Mary and worship Mary, Jesus places her in the proper place as a good, dedicated Christian woman, but still only a woman.
2. This also teaches the doctrine of grace. It is interesting that the first miracle of Moses was turning water into blood. The first miracle of Jesus was turning water into wine. Notice Exodus 7:20. Moses represents the law; Jesus represents grace. The law turned water into blood or death. Jesus turned water into wine or life-giving substance.
3. Moses made bitter water sweet, but could not change it. In Exodus 15:23-26, we read that when Moses came to the waters of Marah, he cast a tree into the waters and the waters were made sweet. Jesus goes farther than that. He casts the cross of Christ into the bitter waters of life and changes them into life-giving wine.
4. In the waterpots here we have a tremendous picture of Jesus doing away with Old Testament ritual. He is using some waterpots that were used for Old Testament sacraments for refreshment-servers. He is showing us here that the joy and delight and thrill of the New Testament comes by faith in Christ, not by ritual and ceremony.