



Jesus' First Sign at Cana

Lesson Overview

1. Read

The seven signs of Jesus.

2. Watch a Video

Watch *John 2:1-11* at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from **12min 51sec to 16min 20sec** (3min 41sec).

3. Discuss

Discuss how the miracle of water becoming wine works in your life. p. 2.

New Church Concept New Wine

"New wine" is the Divine truth of the New Testament, thus of the new church, and "old wine" is the Divine truth of the Old Testament, thus of the old church. Similar is the signification of these words of the Lord at the marriage in Cana of Galilee: Every man at first sets out good wine, and when men have had enough, the worse; you have kept the good wine until now (John 2:1-10). *Apocalypse Revealed* 316.3

Six

"Six" signifies what is full and all, and is used where the truths of good are treated of in the Word where that number occurs. *Apocalypse Revealed* 610.2

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 7 | Gospel of John

Signs in the Word

Signs are frequently mentioned in the Word. God created the sun and moon to be for *signs* and seasons (Genesis 1:14). After the great flood Noah saw a *sign* of God's covenant—a rainbow (Genesis 9:12). Moses was given *miraculous signs* in order to free the children of Israel from slavery (Genesis 4:8). Gideon received the *sign* of the fleece confirming that Israel would be saved by his hand (Judges 6:36-40). Angels gave shepherds a *sign* at the Lord's birth—they would find the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger (Luke 2:12). In each instance signs connected a human experience with the Divine.

All four of the Gospels tell us that Jesus did amazing acts. Matthew, Mark and Luke call these acts "miracles". The Gospel of John refers to seven of these miracles as "signs"—signs of who Jesus was, and what He came to do. These seven signs are:

1. Changing water into wine at a wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11)
2. Healing the nobleman's son in Capernaum (John 4:46-54)
3. Healing the paralytic at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)
4. Feeding the 5000 (John 6:5-14)
5. Jesus walking on water (John 6:16-24)
6. Healing the man blind from birth (John 9:1-7)
7. The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

Each sign reveals something about the Lord, and on a deeper level shows the miracles He can do for us in our own lives. Today we will learn about the first sign: changing water into wine.

Watch a Video

Watch *The Life of Jesus, Official Movie Full HD* John 2:1-11 at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. **Start the video at 12min 51sec and watch to 16min 20sec; 3min 41sec watch time.** (Enter bitly link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.)

Note: the translation used in the video calls Jesus' act of turning water into wine a miracle and does not use the word "sign," which is the word used in the original Greek text.

Discuss

Have copies of the Word available for students to use during the discussion.

Choose a few questions for discussion.

1. Why do you think Jesus did his first miracle at a wedding?
2. The Word sometimes compares a person's relationship with the Lord with the relationship between a bridegroom and bride. The bridegroom represents the Lord; the bride represents people who love the Lord and do what He teaches. Examples of this are the parable of the ten virgins who took oil lamps and waited for the bridegroom; and the holy city new Jerusalem prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. What spiritual marriage does the marriage of the bridegroom and bride picture? When does this spiritual marriage take place?
3. How do we become "married" to the Lord?
4. The spiritual meaning of water is "truth" and the spiritual meaning of wine is "good". When are our lives like a wedding that has run out of wine? (When we want to be good but don't really know how.)
5. What does Jesus calling his mother "woman" say about His relationship with his mother?
6. How did Jesus' relationship with his mother change during His ministry?
7. Why did Jesus' mother say, "Whatever He says to you, do it?" to the servants?
8. In what circumstances should we make or compel ourselves do whatever the Lord tells us to?
9. What consequences happen when we don't do what Lord tells us to?
10. Filling the water pots to the brim is a picture of filling our minds with as many true ideas as we can. How much of our lives does the Lord want us to devote to learning what is true?
11. When did the water turn to wine?
 - a. as soon as the pots were filled?
 - b. when the wine was put into jugs for serving?
 - c. when the wine was served?
12. The miracle of turning water into wine is a miracle the Lord can do in our lives. Filling the pots with water is like filling our mind with true ideas from the Word. When we use the true ideas to lead a better life they become like wine. Talk about a time when you acted on a true idea you know. How did you feel? What were the consequences of your actions?
13. What teachings in the Word have been helpful to you? How have you found ways to use them in your life?
14. What were the consequences of Jesus' act of turning water into wine? (See John 2:11)
15. In what way was this miracle a *sign* of the Lord? What did it reveal about the Lord that was not known before?

All the miracles done by the Lord, as well the miracles by Him spoken of in the Old Testament, were Divine. So with this miracle. "A wedding" signifies the church; "in Cana of Galilee" means among the Gentiles; "water" the truth of the external church, such as was the truth of the Jewish Church. "Wine" signifies the truth of the internal church, such as is the truth of the Christian Church. The Lord's "making the water wine" signifies that of the truths of the external church He will make truths of the internal church by opening the internal things that have lain concealed in them. "The six water-pots of stone," signify all these truths in the Word, and thence in the Jewish Church and its worship; these were representative of things Divine in the Lord and from the Lord, which contained things eternal. For this reason there were "six water-pots of stone, set for the cleansing of the Jews." "Six" signifies all, and is predicated of truths; "stone" signifies truth, and "the cleansing of the Jews" purification from sins; thus all things of the Jewish Church are signified, since that church regards purification from sins as its all, for so far as anyone is purified from sins, so far he becomes a church. "The ruler of the feast" means those who are in the knowledges of truth; his saying to the bridegroom, "every man sets on first the good wine; and when men have had enough, the inferior; you have kept the good wine until now," signifies that every church has its beginning in truths from good, but falls away into truths not of good, but that now, at the end of the church, truth from good, or genuine truth, is granted, by the Lord. See *Apocalypse Explained* 376:28-29