

# The Gospel of John: The Wedding Feast

*John 2:1-11*

## The Wedding (v. 1-5)

- Jesus, His disciples, & His mother are invited to a wedding in Cana
  - Cana: A small village about 9 miles north of Nazareth
    - Nathanael's hometown (John 21:2)
- ☛ This begins a section of the Gospel known as the Cana Cycle (John 2-4), which begins and ends in Cana.
- Probably the wedding of a relative or close friend of Jesus' family
  - Mary's role may have been to help with the meal
    - ☛ Weddings could last up to a week. The groom & his family were responsible for provisions. To run out of wine or food would have brought shame on the family as a whole.
- When Mary informs Jesus of the lack of wine, He responds by distancing himself from her (v. 4a)
  - Jesus constantly distances Himself from His biological family throughout the Gospel (7:3-9)
  - Her response shows her faith in Him (v. 5)
- Jesus responds that it isn't the right time to reveal His glory publicly (v. 4b)
  - Jesus' hour = When His glory would be revealed to the world, ultimately through His death & resurrection

## The Transformation (v. 6-10)

- Jesus tells the servants to use 6 ceremonial washing jars which held 100-150 gallons
  - Used by Jews to cleanse their hands, faces, & perhaps utensils
    - The water represents the old ways & customs which Jesus has come to replace
- Jesus commands them to be filled with freshly drawn water
- It is then served to the head steward, who declares it the superior wine
- The abundance & quality of wine signify Jesus' purpose: To initiate a new era characterized by God's generous outpouring of blessings

## The First Sign (v. 11)

- John refers to Jesus' activity as a sign
  - These are specific, intentional acts by Jesus that reveal His glory and identity
    - ☛ John never uses the term miracle (*dunamis*) in his Gospel. Rather, Jesus performs signs (*sēmeia*), some of which are miraculous, and some are not. There are 7 signs throughout John. At least one of Jesus' miraculous feats (walking on water) is not referred to as a sign.
- This sign was specifically for His disciples (1:51)
- The OT Prophets repeatedly used flowing wine as a sign of the Messianic age (Amos 9:13-15; Jer. 31:12; Hos. 14:7; Isa 25:6-8)
  - This sign is an acted parable, showing His disciples that the Messianic age has begun
- His disciples believed in Him because of this sign
  - That is what the signs are for, to foster belief (20:31)
- The consummation of the Messianic age is also described as a wedding feast (Mt 22:1-14; 25:1-13; Rev 19:7-9)
  - We are welcomed to the wedding as the most honored guest, His bride (John 3:29; Rev 19:7; 21:2, 9; 22:17)

## **So What?**

- Jesus ushers in a new age of God's abundant blessings
- He invites us to be His bride
- Have we accepted His proposal?

**Mediation Verse:** John 2:11