

Signs of the Messiah: Water to Wine

(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 2 miles north of Nazareth
 - Nathanael's hometown (John 21:2)
- 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
- When Mary informs Jesus of the lack of wine, His response is terse (v. 4a)
 - As her eldest son, Mary had probably come to rely on Jesus
 - But He is now distancing Himself from His family
 - Her later response shows her faith in Him (v. 5)
- Instead, as Jesus embarks on His divine mission, the thing that guides Him is His Father's will (v. 4b)
 - Jesus' hour = When His glory would be revealed to the world, ultimately through His death & resurrection
 - Though, His glory is on display throughout each of the signs in various ways

The Sign (v. 6-10)

- Jesus seizes this opportunity to point to His disciples who He is
- He utilizes 6 ceremonial washing jars
 - 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
 - About 100-150 gallons
- It is then served to the head steward, who declares it the superior to the previous wine
 - Wine = Fermented (v. 10)
 - Though perhaps diluted to about 1/10 the strength of strong wine
- The abundance of wine points to what Jesus has come to do
 - Usher in a new age marked by God pouring out His blessings lavishly
- This was foretold by the Prophets as a sign of the Messianic age (Isa. 25:6-8; Amos 9:13; Jer. 31:12; Hos. 14:7)
- Jesus later adopts the wedding as a symbol for the consummation of the Messianic age (Mt. 22:1-14; 25:1-13)
- Thus, this sign is an acted parable, pointing to Jesus as the one who ushers in the Messianic age

The Response (v. 11)

- This is referred to as Jesus' first/beginning sign
 - The Messianic age has begun (John 1:1)
- His glory is being revealed (John 1:14)

- Though first only to these few disciples
- The result is they begin to put their faith in Him
 - That is what signs are meant to do (John 20:31)

So What?

- Jesus ushers in a new age of God's abundant blessings
- We are welcomed to the wedding as the most honored guest, His bride (John 3:29; Rev 19:7; 21:2, 9; 22:17)
- Have we accepted His proposal?

Meditation Verse: *Isaiah 25:6-8*