

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*John 2:1-11*

*Lesson #9 Water to Wine*

*09/13/2015*

Joy is a kind  
of happiness  
that doesn't  
depend on  
what happens.

Like many, we are not  
satisfied with the kingdom  
in its present form.

Like the Apostle Paul  
we know that we haven't  
seen anything yet  
compared to what is  
coming.

## *1 Corinthians 11*

"<sup>25</sup> 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." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

***The wine of the Lord's Supper is a sharing in the memory of his shed blood and a toast to our coming wedding to him.***

## *John 2*

"<sup>1</sup> On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." <sup>4</sup> "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim."

"<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." <sup>11</sup> This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him."

**This is a story of a SIGN -  
“the first of his miraculous signs”**

The Greek term for “sign” used here carries the idea of token signifying something.

**What are we to make of this?**

1. Is this simply a miracle - showing Jesus’ power without any other meaning?
2. Is this miracle, though unexplained, full of symbolic hints pointing to a bigger picture of greater significance?  
And if so, what might that be?

**This is a story of a SIGN -  
“the first of his miraculous signs”**

In the Gospel of John, a physical sign is often linked to a spiritual truth.

Physical sign	Spiritual truth
Multiplying loaves 6:11-14	I am the Bread of Life 6:35
Restoring sight 9:7	I am the Light 9:5
Raising the dead 11:43-44	I am the resurrection 11:23-27
Changing Water to Wine 2:1-11	?

**What are some hints  
as to the meaning of this sign?**

- This is a **WEDDING** “a wedding took place at Cana”
- There is a context of **SHAME** - “They have no more wine.”
- There is a context of **SANCTIFICATION** - “jars, . . . used for ceremonial washing”
- This is a story of **FILLING** - “they filled them to the brim.”
- This is a story of **CHANGE** - “the water that had been turned into wine.”
- This is a story of a **SECRET MIRACLE** - “though (ONLY) the servants who had drawn the water knew.”
- This is a story that ends in **SURPRISE & JOY** - “you have saved the best till now.”
- There is suggestion of a **COMING EVENT** - “My time has not yet come.”
- There is a link to **JESUS’ GLORY** - “He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.”

**Elsewhere in John “My time” and “glorification”  
point to the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry.**

John 7:8,30, 8:20  
“His hour had not yet come.”

John 13:1

“Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that **his hour had come** that he would depart out of this world to the Father,”

John 17:1

“Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, “Father, **the hour has come; glorify Your Son**, that the Son may glorify You.”

John 7:39

“But this he spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet **glorified.**”

**The Gospel of John  
From chapter 2 to 4:21-23 2:1-11**

Revelation to the world of sinners	Revelation to individuals	Revelation to multitudes	Rejection by the Jewish leaders	Private ministry	Public ministry	Ministry to the world of sinners
	3-5	6-8	9-12	1		
	Signs					
	Public ministry			Private ministry		Ministry to the world of sinners
	Galilee & Judea			Jerusalem		
	About 3 1/2 years			Only a few days		

**Matthew 26**

“<sup>27</sup> And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.””

1. The wine of the Lord’s Supper is linked to the blood of the New Covenant of forgiveness of sins.
2. This wine is also linked to the wedding of our ultimate and final union with Christ.

Revelation 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.”

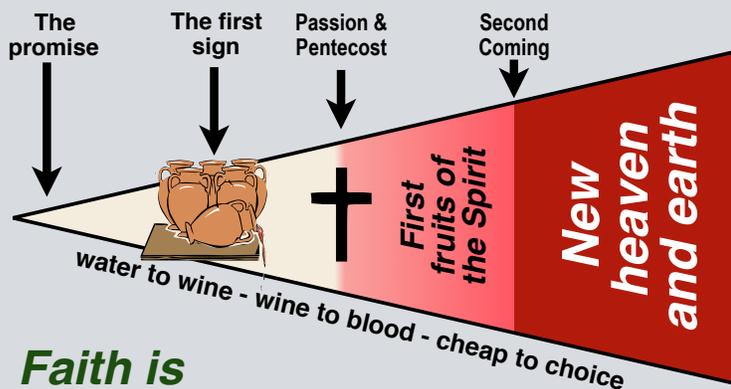
# What is the point of this miracle?

Jesus points to a wedding ceremony where he will turn our lack into choice wine.

## Three forgotten truths

1. The Gospel is not Jesus' life and teaching so much as his death and resurrection.
2. Jesus' death reveals the wrath of God's past judgment on sin.
3. Jesus' resurrection reveals the choice wine of God's future blessing on sinners.

### The scope of Jesus' prophetic sign in John 2:1-11



Faith is inspired by his revealed glory

“and the master of the banquet tasted the **water** that had been turned into **wine.**”

*2 Corinthians 1:22*  
“who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”

from Water	to Wine
The flesh	The First fruits of the Spirit
No hope	Hope - but not yet realized
A natural body	A temple of the Spirit
A temporal family	The church militant
The world as our home	Aliens in the earth
Fear of death	Boldness in life
A broken planet	Salt and light

“Everyone brings out the **choice** wine first and then the **cheaper** wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

*Romans 8:18*  
“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

from Cheap	to Choice
The first fruits of the Spirit	Full life in the Spirit
Hope - but not yet realized	A realized hope
A temple of the Spirit	A heavenly body
The church militant	The church triumphant
Aliens in the earth	Citizens of heaven
Boldness in life	Fullness of life
Salt and light	A new heaven and earth

## God's wrath & blessing

The Gospel is about God's wrath poured out on Christ's person

so that choice wine be poured out on Christ's people.

The Good News of the Gospel  
is just getting started,  
therefore ~

1. **Be *Persevering* in faith.**
2. **Be *Persistent* in service.**
3. **Be *Positive* in suffering.**
4. **Be *Patient* in trials.**

## Some dangers we face

1. ***Expecting too much in this life.***
2. ***Investing too much hope in this life.***
3. ***Being discouraged by unmet longings.***
4. ***Expecting God to anoint all the circumstances of this life.***

### *Isaiah 25*

<sup>6</sup> The Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, *And* refined, aged wine. <sup>7</sup> And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. <sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken. <sup>9</sup> And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

### *Romans 8*

<sup>24</sup> For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?. <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."