

Teaching Points

The gospel of John highlights seven miracles that Christ performed. The greek word that John uses to describe these miracles is *sēmeion* (pronounced say-mi'-on). This word indicates that Jesus' miracles were more than just demonstrations of His power; they were "signs" that testified to His divine nature and the validity of His message. In other words, Christ's miracles were a divine authentication of His claims.

Although John focuses in on these seven specific miracles, he makes it very clear that there were countless other signs and miracles that Jesus performed. John 20:30-31, ***"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in the book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."***

John tells us that the miracles he records in this gospel record are written down so that we can read about them and come to believe in Christ as the Son of God. John didn't write this record to say, "Hey, look how cool all these miracles were! Isn't Jesus really interesting?" He wrote this record to say, "Hey, Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Look at these signs He performed and listen to the message He preached. Believe in Him and be saved!"

Interestingly, belief is not the end goal. John 20:31 says that belief is only a means to a greater end – which is eternal life. Everyone who reads this gospel account and believes in the Christ presented to us therein will live forever.

With that in mind, let's turn our attention to this first sign that Jesus performed.

Consider the context. This was a first century Jewish wedding. Hospitality was very important in this culture. The host was expected to furnish his guests with food, drink, and a joyful atmosphere. All this is well and good - until the host family runs out of wine. This may not seem like a very big deal to us, but to the host family this would have been a significant social failure. If the wine failed, the wedding would have been turned from a happy celebration into a social humiliation.

Mary approaches Jesus in verse 3 and seeks His help. All she says is, ***"They have no wine."*** She wants Jesus to help these people out even if that means using supernatural means. Jesus' response seems like a mild rebuke, ***"Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."***

Discussion Question: Why does Jesus respond this way? What does He mean?

Thoughts: *Jesus is about to begin openly demonstrating His deity through signs and wonders. His preaching and miracles are all part of the work His Father gave Him to do. Mary is not going to have a say in when, where, and how Jesus works*

His miracles. All these things will be decided between Christ and His Father. His primary concern was not pleasing Mary but doing the will of His Father. His hour to work signs was not something Mary had the authority to decide. Every step He takes is going to be in concert with His heavenly Father - not His earthly mother.

Now Jesus goes to work. There's no wine left, but there is water available. Jesus commands the servants to take six waterpots of stone and fill them to the brim. These vessels were used for Jewish washings and purifications. The water in them was for washing - not drinking. Nevertheless, the servants fill them up at Jesus' word.

The miracle itself is a transformation. The water is changed into wine. There are several important observations to be made here.

1. Jesus is able to change the nature of the water in an instant. The process of creating wine was one that required time - but not for Jesus. This is a demonstration of His sovereignty over the nature of creation. Water becomes wine when Christ wills. He controls the properties of all created things.
2. The wine that Jesus made was of the best quality. The master of the feast is very impressed when he tastes it. This is a testimony to the work of Christ. The change He brings about is good - taking plain water and making into something sweet and satisfying.
3. This miracle saved the reputation of the host family. With over 150 gallons of good wine now available (6 waterpots of 20-30 gallon capacity), the wedding can go on without a hitch. Jesus showed great mercy to this newlywed couple by saving them from the shame and disgrace of not being able to provide for their guests.

This sign is also an illustration of the overall work of Jesus. In other words, this miracle teaches us something about the work He came to do as the Messiah.

Discussion Question: What does this miracle teach us about Christ's mission?

Thoughts: *He didn't come to improve our lives, He came to transform us - just like He changed the water into something different and better. Christ's work with us involves remaking us. He is the one with sovereign power to take a sinful rebel against God and turn them into a joyful, obedient, servant of God. Also, the outcome is something good - just like the wine was of the best quality. Jesus finds us as slaves to sin and makes us into sons and daughters of the King of Heaven. There is no greater change than this!*

Notice in verses 11-12 that this sign was a manifestation of Christ's glory that resulted in His disciples believing in Him. This is exactly what John said the signs were intended to do! (John 20:30-31) John the Baptist pointed to Christ and said, **"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"** Now, Jesus was beginning to

show everyone what that meant and how He would accomplish the salvation that John predicted. He came to remake us - just like He remade the water into wine.

Discussion Question: Verse 11 says that His disciples believed in Him after they saw this miracle. Do you think they had arrived at full grown belief or was this only the beginning of their faith?

Thoughts: *This was only the beginning. There were so many sermons and miracles that Jesus had in store for them to witness. They truly believed Him when they saw this sign, but this was only one glimpse of the amazing work of Jesus. There was so much more for them to see and hear.*

Belief grows. Their faith was real, but it was young and relatively immature. Jesus wants us to grow in grace and this was like the starting line for them. The disciples were eye-witnesses of His work...and Jesus was just getting started.

Prayer Focus

Praise God for His sovereign power to change us. He remakes us in ways that we could never accomplish on our own.

Pray that we would be wholly dependent on Him for change. May we look to Him to save us, sanctify us, and to produce something good in us.

Pray that God would change others. Jesus isn't done saving sinners. Keep praying for the lost.