

John 2:1-12



Passage:

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

Notable People:

- **Mary (Jesus' Mother)** – the virgin mother of Jesus who's most noted for her role in the incarnation.
- **Master of the Feast** – this would have been the head servant and not a guest at the wedding. Best thought of as a modern day wedding/event planner.

Notable Places:

- **Cana in Galilee** – A small Jewish village (about 72 miles north of Jerusalem, eight miles north of Nazareth, and 12 miles west of the sea of Galilee).
- **Capernaum** – A city on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee (about 16 miles, north-northeast of Cana).

Cross References:

Shared Language: John 7:30, 8:20, 12:23, 13:1,
Mark 7:3 (Jewish Purification)
Exodus 7:14-25 (Water turned to Blood)

Key Words:

- **Signs** (σημεῖον, semeion) – a sign or mark whereby something is known, an event that is an indication or confirmation of intervention by God.
- **Glory** (δόξα, doxa) – used of humans involved in transcendent circumstances, the thought of power and might is central in this context.

Notable Language:

- **Woman v.4** – While strange to the modern reader, Jesus' address to his mother is culturally polite and kind and not demeaning.
- **What does this have to do with me? V.4** – A common expression in Greek that referenced a difference in realm or relation (demons use this when speaking to Jesus Mark 1:24).

Notable Context:

- **Wine** (Weddings) – As the text implies, better wine was customarily served first, but this miracle demonstrated the later to be superior. Likely John is stating how the New Covenant to come in Christ would be superior to the former in Moses.
- **Jewish Purification** – Jars containing water, about 20-30 gallons each, were used to clean oneself before meals. They were likely outside, and drinking this water, to Jews, was unthinkable for it was unclean.

Before:

- John the Baptist's confession of the Christ (1:19-34)
- Jesus calls his first disciples in Bethany (1:35-42)
- Jesus calls Philip & Nathanael in Galilee (1:43-51)

After:

- Jesus clears the Temple in Jerusalem (2:13-22)
- Jesus meets with Nicodemus (3:1-21)
- John the Baptist speaks about the supremacy of Christ's ministry (3:22-36)

Main Idea:

With Cana being close to both Nazareth and Capernaum, the locations that Jesus is credited with growing up, Jesus and his family (Mary) including his disciples, were invited to a wedding. Confronted by his mother, Jesus is informed that there is no more wine. It is unclear if Mary knew her son would perform a miracle, simply because this very miracle is his first. John's likely intention to this recorded miracle is to draw contrast to Moses, who turned water to blood (judgement), and instead turned water to wine (joy). It also demonstrates that Jesus' ministry would be filled with transformations of various unclean items into items of joy and great value (2 Corinthians 5:17).