

Twenty-One Days With John

Day 2 – John 2

Prayer: Jesus, the Word of God, so many times we look for signs that You are really here. When we don't recognize those signs, we sometimes doubt Your love and that You are with us.

At the Wedding of Cana, You demonstrated how You care for all our needs. You care that proper provisions be made in Your proper time. Lord, show us how the signs given in Your word—and specifically in John's Gospel—are proof positive that You are really here. May they be convincing proofs to us that You have come—and will come—to help us...in Your time. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Meditation:

It may seem rather interesting that Jesus would do His first recorded miracle at a wedding.

If you were Jesus, what would you want your first miracle to be? Healing a sick person? Making a lifetime paralytic walk? Calming a vicious and destructive storm? Raising someone from the dead? Or how about exorcising a demon from a possessed, Satan-tormented individual?

Obviously, we're not Jesus. Obviously, His ways are above ours. That's why Jesus chose a wedding to be the site of his first miracle. Why a wedding? There are several possibilities.

First, by performing his first miracle at a wedding, Jesus demonstrated that He was working in the context of God-pleasing relationships. He wanted to encourage weddings...and the celebration of this remarkable, God-given estate.

Second, this first miracle of Jesus gives John an opportunity to describe Jesus' role relative to Mary. Mary, though the honored mother of Jesus, was not God. She was not the Savior. Even though she lovingly tried to intervene by instructing the servants, Jesus did not need Mom's help. This miracle—or any of His miracles—was not about her. It was about Him. She needed to know that. That's why Jesus rebuked her *so* sharply in John 2:4, saying, "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus didn't need a partner. He didn't need a co-redeemer. The work of salvation was His—and His alone.

Third, by changing water into wine, Jesus demonstrated that He came to intervene in the world at our own level. As the "Word made flesh," Jesus dwelt among us—eating, drinking, sleeping, walking and celebrating with us in the regular—and special—events of our lives. Changing water into wine? What a wonderful way to keep this special celebration unstained by human error.

A Fourth Reason Jesus chose the Wedding at Cana as His first miracle, however, reflects on the greater purpose and promise of salvation. In the book of Revelation, John describes heaven as a banquet. Isaiah also describes heaven as a place of fine wine, the

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“choicest of wines” (Isaiah 25:6). The wine at the final feast is a celebration of the victory over death (Isaiah 25:7) and an affirmation of the completeness of God’s salvation for us in Christ.

How can we not recall how Jesus, in His Last Supper, miraculously provides an even greater hydrological miracle. “This is My body...This is My blood.” Right there in the visible elements of bread and wine we see Cana revisited...and taken up a notch. “This is the feast!” we proclaim. Indeed it is. Join in the feast of salvation.

Water into wine. What a great miracle. But what an even greater “sign.” For John, there are no “miracles” in John. Jesus was not some sort of magician who miraculously manipulated reality for show. Instead, John calls Jesus’ miracles “signs.” As signs, Jesus’ miraculous signs gave witness to a greater reality. These “signs” were indisputable testimony that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

Prayer:

Jesus, You are God’s sign to us. You are God’s sign that He loves us. You are God’s sign that He forgives us. You are God’s sign that God will never desert us. Lord, help us not too have a fickle faith which seek earthly signs. Such “signs” merely confuse us and misdirect us. Instead, send Your Holy Spirit to turn to the Word—Jesus Christ—as the only Sign to direct our lives. Lamb of God, hear our prayer and direct us to You. Amen.

Thomas F. Fischer

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