

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW; YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH – WINTER/
SPRING SEMESTER

JROC - Week 3 – The Wedding in Cana of Galilee

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The Gospel of John tells us that Jesus, with those who would follow Him, then left Judea to journey into Galilee. And this trip to Galilee was prior to John's imprisonment and prior to His departure to Galilee in Matt. 4:12. We must continue with the John sequence for now.

John 2:1 - . . .*there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee*.... We are primarily going to reside in the Gospel of Matthew during our study this semester. But, we need to understand Jesus' route as there is much foundational information that is found in the Gospels of John and Luke.

John 2:1-11 - *On the third day (from what transpired in John 1 and there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there (perhaps a relative's wedding) ² Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.' (Running out of wine was a major social faux pas...bringing social disgrace upon the hosts.) ⁴ Jesus said to her, 'Woman (an endearing term), what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.' (Jesus was on a timetable). ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it.' ⁶ Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the waterpots with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He said to them, 'Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.' And they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰ And he said to him, 'Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!' ¹¹ This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.*

Jesus performed a "sign". We read of "signs" in the OT. "Signs" authenticated the message of Moses and of the prophets (Ex. 4:8-9; Ex. 4:28-30; Ex. 7:3; Ex. 10:1-2; Isa. 20:3).

The signs Jesus performed testified to the divine authenticity of his message and also testified to the reality that JESUS is the divine message – the very Word of God (John 1:1).

This was Jesus' first miracle. Why was it significant?

- It was a miracle of creation – Jesus made wine out of water. Only God creates.
- Jesus performed His first miracle at a Wedding! Through this miracle, Jesus is sanctifying marriage which speaks to the union between God and Israel (Jer. 3:14; Isa. 54:15; Eze. 16:8). Jesus is blessing the marriage celebration.
- The marriage relationship speaks to true JOY in the Scriptures.

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- In Jer. 16:9 - God told Israel that because of their sin of idolatry, He *would cause to cease from this place, before your eyes and in your days, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.*

- Jesus began His public ministry at a wedding offering joy as the “Bridegroom” within God’s plan of redemption!

- Isa. 62:4-5 – God, in speaking to Jerusalem of RESTORATION, tells them - *You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah (My delight is in her), and your land Beulah (married); for the **LORD** delights in you, and your land shall be married.⁵ For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.*

- And, this speaks to the wonderful relationship the Messiah will have with His bride – the redeemed - during the Millennial Kingdom which is the kingdom of God on earth.

- Jesus' first miracle/sign during His earthly ministry, points to the MARRIAGE SUPPER of the Lamb in the Millennial Kingdom and of our union with Him (Isa. 25:6; Matt. 8:11). And, at that marriage supper of the Lamb after Jesus establishes His kingdom on earth at His Second physical coming, Gentiles and Jews will feast together (Matt. 8:11)

- Jesus' miracle of the provision of wine proved His Messiahship. The prophets had written in the Tanakh that during the Millennial Kingdom, when the Messiah would rule and reign – wine would flow liberally (Isa. 25:6; Jer. 31:12; Hosea 14:7).

- Jeremiah had foretold that in the Messianic age “they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine . . .” (**Jeremiah 31:12**). Amos said, regarding the RESTORATION of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom, that Israel “will plant vineyards and drink their wine” (**Amos 9:14**).

- Matt. 26:29 - *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.*

There was another miracle that occurred at the wedding...

John 2:11 - *This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.* While the first disciples had already acknowledged Him enough to respond to Jesus telling them, "Come and See," this miracle/sign perhaps brought them from head knowledge to heart knowledge when Jesus manifested His glory.

John describes Jesus' miracles as "signs." A sign always sends a message. Jesus' miracles authenticated Who He is - the Messiah, God the Son!

John 2:12 – *After this (after the miracle at Cana) He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.*

WHY did they not stay there many days? Scripture answers that WHY question...

John 2:13 – *Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*