

Sunday Morning Message

March 20, 2022

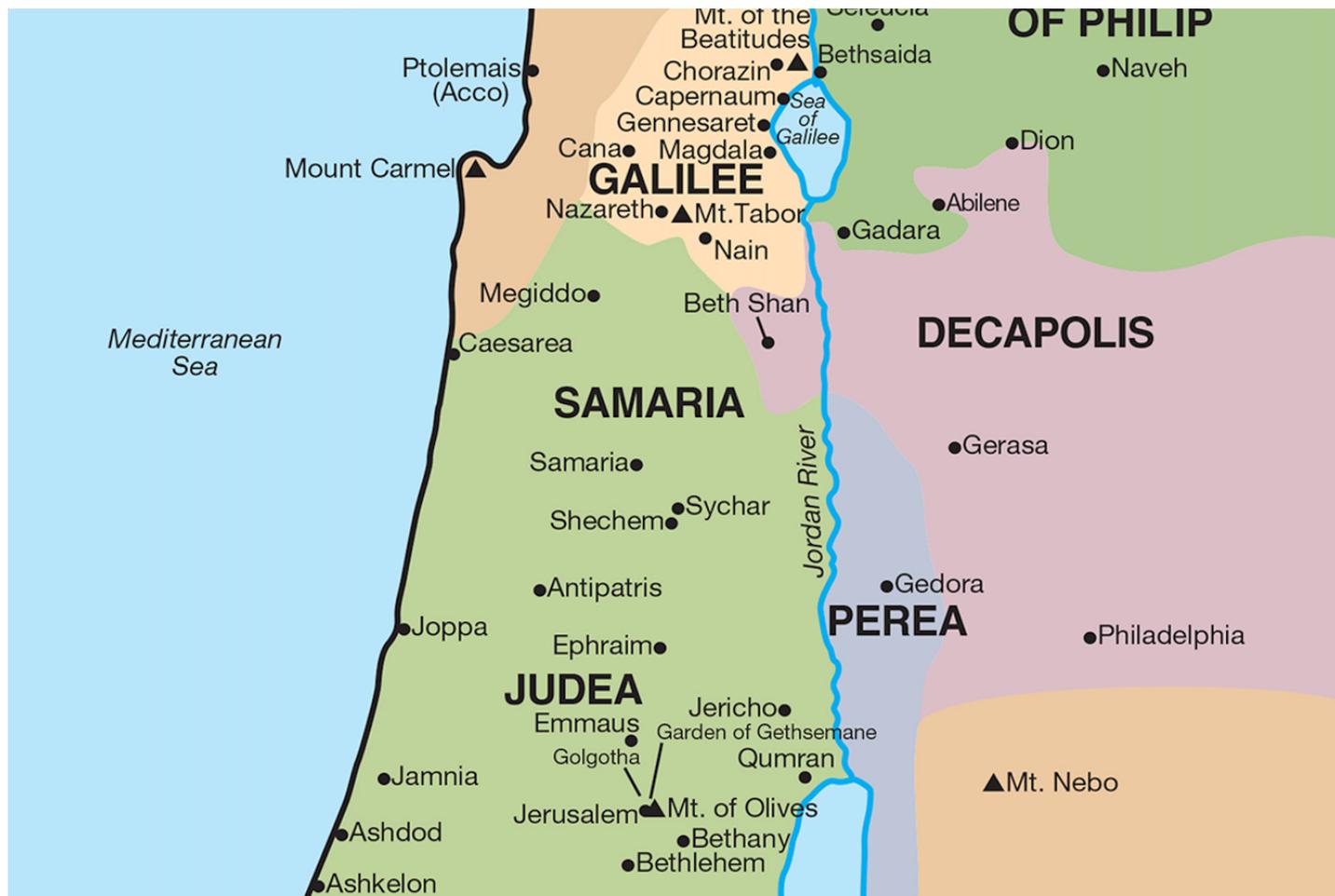
The Wedding at Cana in Galilee

The Gospel According to John

Text – John 2:1 - 12

Congregational Reading – John 2:1 - 12

Introduction



We are moving on chronologically and geographically in our study of John's Gospel, and we arrive at a place called Cana in Galilee where Jesus will execute (or effect – I don't like the word "perform") His first recorded miracle, which is the turning of water to wine. Verse eleven calls this "the beginning of miracles" (σημείων from σημεῖον – *semeion* – usually translated "sign"). This was the first miraculous act done by Jesus Himself in His public ministry that demonstrated that Jesus was whom He claimed to be. By the way, according to John 4:54, the second miracle, which is the healing of the nobleman's son will also be done in Cana of Galilee.

No study of the Gospels would be complete without a thorough examination of the miracles that Jesus performed. There seem to be three primary purposes for these miracles: First, they provided **proof** that Jesus was Who He claimed to be, though it is important to note that He did His miraculous works in the power of the Holy Spirit of God (Matthew 12:28). These miracles demonstrated Christ's authority in both the natural and spiritual realm. They also were a fulfillment of **prophecy**. (Isaiah 29:18; 35:5; 61:1; Luke 11:5) The Old Testament foretold that the Messiah would heal the sick, etc. The third reason is that Jesus had a **passion** for people. He loved them, and He desired to help them. The only miracle (besides the Resurrection) that is recorded in all four of the Gospels is the Feeding of the 5000. Interestingly, each gospel writer has included some miracles that are unique to his particular gospel account. John's Gospel records eleven specific miracles, six of which are recorded only by John.

Besides the discussion of the miracle itself here in our text, however, we will also be careful to point out a few practical applications that can be drawn from this wonderful passage of Scripture.

I. The Setting (vs. 1 – 2)

A. Cana – Cana is a city in Galilee, approximately 25 miles from where John was baptizing in Bethabara. It is west of the Sea of Galilee, and about 10 miles north of Nazareth, Jesus' home town. It is about 20 miles from Bethsaida which is at the northernmost point of the Sea of Galilee.

B. It is the third day since he entered Galilee (John 1:43)

There is an interesting picture here. The first chapter of John's gospel reminds of the creation story. John 1:1 starts out the same way as Genesis 1:1 – "In the beginning." There are also a lot of allusions to days, as Genesis does with the days of Creation. On the first day we have John baptizing in Bethabara and his having his discussion about Christ with the religious leaders (John 1:28). John 1:29 is "the next day" when John points out Jesus as the Lamb of God. In John 1:35, it is a day later, and John once again points out Jesus as the Lamb of God, and this is the day that Jesus picks up his first three disciples – Andrew, John, and Peter. In John 1:43, which is day four, Jesus arrives in Galilee and picks up two more disciples – Philip and Nathanael. Now it is "the third day" since Jesus enters into Galilee, which makes it the end of the week. At the end of the week, Jesus goes to a wedding. Here is the picture – at the end of the six days of Creation, God rested; and, at

the end of six thousand years after Creation, there will be a Millennial Kingdom that will begin with a wedding – the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. So, we begin here in Cana of Galilee at a wedding, and we will conclude in the Book of Revelation with a wedding as well. Only at that wedding, Christ will be the bridegroom, and we (all believers) will be the Bride.

C. He is with his mother, his brothers (Maybe Jude and James), and some of his disciples. He has not called all of them yet. Perhaps Philip is there; maybe Peter, Andrew, possibly John, possibly Nathanael. Remember these are disciples, not necessarily apostles yet. He will call the twelve later. [Explain the difference.]

D. He is invited to a wedding.

1. God performed the first wedding way back in the Book of Genesis 2:18 – 25.
2. Jesus compares his love to the church to the love a man should have for his wife. (Ephesians 5:22 – 33)
3. We who are believers corporately are the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Revelation 19:7 – 10; 21:2, 9, 17)

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:2)

II. The Situation (vs. 3 – 11)

They ran out of wine. [Explain the story]

A wedding celebration in Bible days would often last for a week.

It is likely that Jesus' family were either friends or relatives to the people who were getting married. Possibly, Nathanael, who was also from Cana, knew them as well (John 21:2).

Notice verses 3 – 4 – Mary asks Jesus to do something about the wine situation. Mary wanted Jesus to perform a miracle. Why? Partially because she wanted to relieve the embarrassment that this family would have felt for running out of wine. But, I think she also wanted Jesus to vindicate Mary. Thirty years ago, Mary had told all of her friends and relatives that she was pregnant miraculously, but I am sure that most did not believe. Jesus would now be able to prove that Mary was right all along, but He stated His "hour"

had not yet come, and He was referring to the time that He would be crucified. He was basically telling her that her full vindication would come when he died and was resurrected from the dead.

Verses that refer to Jesus "hour:"

*"Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because **his hour** was not yet come."* (John 7:30)

*"These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for **his hour** was not yet come."* (John 8:20)

*"And Jesus answered them, saying, **The hour** is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. ... Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from **this hour**: but for this cause came I unto **this hour**."* (John 12:23, 27)

*"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that **his hour** was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end."* (John 13:1)

A "firkin" contains about nine gallons, so these waterpots contained somewhere between 18 and 27 gallons. That's a lot of water; that's a lot of wine.

Maybe they ran out of wine because Jesus brought a few extra guests with Him.

1. Wine is symbolic of the Blood of Christ and also the Spirit of God.
2. Water is a picture of the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word," (Ephesians 5:26)

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ... Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:3, 5)

3. **The wine that they ran out of may have been alcoholic wine.** [Explain the different types of wine referred to in the Bible]
4. **The wine that Jesus made, I believe, was pure grape juice.** "Best wine" does not mean more fermented. It could not be fermented as it

symbolizes His blood. Just as unleavened bread is used to symbolize His body, unfermented juice is used to symbolize His blood. That is why Jesus said that His time ("his hour") had not yet come. He was referring to the shedding of His blood.

5. The Bible give strong warnings regarding alcohol in the Bible. Be careful about using this passage as a justification for consuming alcohol. I have heard people who like to drink say that Jesus made and drank wine, so it is OK for them to drink. If that is true, then my question to them would be, if you are following Jesus' supposed example in this case, then why don't you follow His example in all other cases.

- a. The wine in the Bible is not exactly as it is today. Because of the lack of refrigeration and the heat, grape juice would begin fermenting very quickly. Often wine was diluted to with three parts water to one part wine. This would purify the water, which was often contaminated with bacteria, and it would also minimize the effect of the alcohol in the wine.
- b. The first mention of wine in the Bible is when Noah got drunk and was naked upon His bed.
- c. The third mention of wine in the Bible is when Lot's daughters mad him drunk and both slept with him.
- d. Bible warnings

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."
(Proverbs 20:1)

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again."
(Proverbs 23:29-35)

"It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more." (Proverbs 31:4-7)

The Bible is clear that Pastor's should not be given to wine.

I will not say that the Bible dogmatically states that is a sin for you to drink a class of wine, but it does clearly declare that drinking is wrong for some people at any time, and that excessive drinking (or drunkenness) is wrong for everybody.

III. The Summary (Practical Applications)

A. It is good to invite Jesus to your marriage. Marry inside of His will. Marry someone who will help you to be more like Jesus.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14)

B. Don't seek to be vindicated. God will vindicate you when the time is right. Someday, everyone will know that you were right about trusting Jesus.

C. Don't be drunk with alcohol, but rather be filled with the Spirit of God.

D. God wants to perform the same miracle that Jesus did in Cana with you today.

1. He wants to take an earthen vessel like the waterpot; like you.
2. He wants to fill you with the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
3. He wants to draw out of you Spiritual fruit that will be a blessing to others.