



WATER INTO WINE

Believe – Part 2

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"To run out of supplies would be a dreadful embarrassment in a 'shame' culture; there is some evidence it could also lay the groom open to a lawsuit from aggrieved relatives of the bride."
– D. A. Carson, The Gospel According to John

1. THE PARTY, THE PROBLEM AND THE PROVISION

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. John 2:1-11

❑ John is a numbers guy

Seven groupings of sevens in the gospel of John:

7 signs and miracles Jesus performed

7 "I AM" statements of Jesus

7 witnesses that testify of Jesus

7 ministries of the Holy Spirit

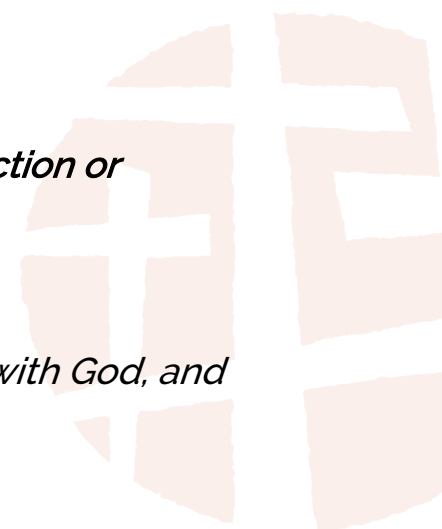
7 life-changing conversations of Jesus

7 women

7 questions Pilate asked Jesus

In the Bible, seven is a number that suggests perfection or completion.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1



On the third day a wedding took place... John 2.1a

- ☐ Is Jesus being disrespectful?

When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." John 2.3-4

- ☐ The water jars represent that a system is being overturned

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. John 2.6

Six in the Bible is the number of imperfection

- ☐ The Messianic age is a time of abundant wine

The time is surely coming says the Lord when the mountains shall drip with sweet wine and the hills shall flow with it; when my people shall plant vineyards and drink their wine. Amos 9.13,14

On this mountain the Lord will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of well-aged wines strained clear... This is the Lord for whom we have waited. Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Isaiah 25.6-10

❑ A bigger miracle than you might imagine

I am the vine; you are the branches. John 15.5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1.1-2

"...miracle of water-to-wine must involve the creation of new carbon atoms, new nitrogen atoms, and a number of other elements (including a large amount of potassium)," - Dr. Jim Williams, Indiana University School of Medicine

creatio ex nihilo

2. WHY DOES THIS MIRACLE DESERVE FIRST PLACE?



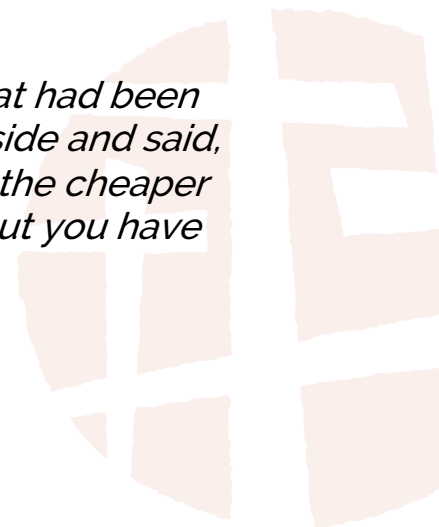
The reason Jesus turned water into wine was to foreshadow the transition from Old Covenant to New Covenant by His death on the cross.

- ❑ John uses the phrase, "On the third day..."
- ❑ Jesus Himself says something to shift our minds to His death and resurrection

My hour has not yet come. John 2.4

- ❑ Jesus used jars meant for ceremonial cleansing
- ❑ The master of the feast says, "You have saved the best till now."

...and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine... Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." John 2.9-10



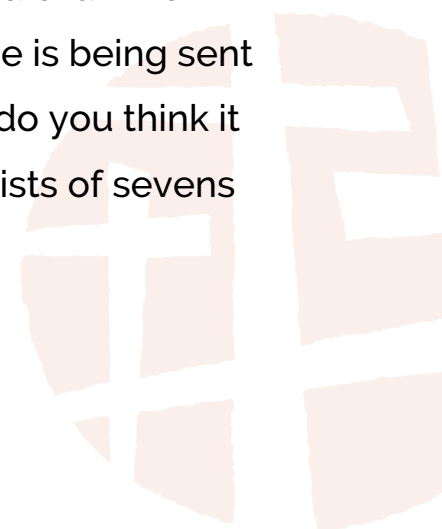
"He chose to begin the Gospel by this first sign of the changing of water into wine. He chose to end His ministry of preaching by changing wine into Blood. He performed the first miracle at a banquet, and the last, the Eucharist, at another banquet. He changed water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana, and at the Last Supper, which was as the wedding feast of this Sacred Spouse, He, transformed bread into His Flesh and wine into His Blood." – St. Francis de Sales

...his disciples believed in him. John 2.11b

signs, believe, life

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. DIGGING DEEPER: You can, as a group or on your own, search out the seven sevens of the Gospel of John. Seven is the number of completion or perfection. As you examine each list of seven, ask yourself, "What message is being sent in this completed list? What stands out? Why do you think it was important to John to make these various lists of sevens through out his book?"



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OR you could look up the references to the Third Day Motif and discuss how each story prepares us for the consummation of redemption in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Joseph telling the cupbearer in prison that on the third day he would be set free.

Joshua telling the children of Israel, on the third day, they would cross over into the promised land.

The Third Day is when Esther faced down the king and saved her people from certain death.

The Third Day is the day that a prophet named Jonah was delivered from the giant fish after being swallowed alive.

The Third Day is the day that idols like Dagon come tumbling down, and the ark of the covenant begins its journey home to His people.

And of course, the consummate third day story is the resurrection of Jesus Christ Himself.

2. The six water jars clearly represent a system of religion that was inadequate at addressing the human need to be cleansed of our guilt and shame. Are there ways that this ill-fated systems of religion still rear their ugly heads in church? Discuss ways you have seen religious people attempting to self-atone for their sins. Why do these failed attempts to deal with our sin problem so persistent? Have you ever been under the influence of such teaching or practice? What has God taught you that helped set you free from those ineffectual attempts to please God?
3. Since signs are more than merely supernatural happenings (they are miracles with a message) it is always important to linger over stories of miraculous events in the Bible until we begin to see what is the larger lesson – the bigger truth – the essential core this miracle is underscores? What did you learn about this miracle that you didn't know before? Why did that particular truth stand out? What are its implications?

