

**The Gospel of John**

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**The Gospel of John**

**Lesson #15**

**The Journey**

Jim Hoffman

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**The Gospel of John**

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• John 2:1 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. 2

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**The Gospel of John**

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• John 2:8 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. 3

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### The Gospel of John

- In chapter 2 we will see a shift in how Jesus is proclaimed – in chapter 1 we heard from the Apostle John (**the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**).
- Then the greatest prophet of the Old Testament, John the Baptizer, said, **“I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”**
- Then after just a short time with Jesus we have (5) of the Apostles tell us plainly that, **“We have found the Messiah”**.

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### The Gospel of John

- So, the shift in how Jesus is identified will move from the proclamations of convinced humans to the objective evidence of his miracles.
- In John’s gospel (7) signs (miracles) are recorded for us in keeping with his intentions to show evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- There are (37) signs recorded in the (4) gospels and He probably did even more than those that are recorded. (perhaps like his words)

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### The Gospel of John

**It is more than probable Jesus performed miracles everyday in His ministry - it is a near certainty. Everywhere He went in 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine He would have encountered human pain and suffering and when your works validate your message then you would do that which the need requires.**

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**The Gospel of John**

**John 21:25** "there were also many other things which Jesus did which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written."

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**The Gospel of John**

- Going forward John will alternate between the **words** of Christ, and the **works** of Christ.
- John will present a statement of Jesus that lent proof to his deity and then present his works that demonstrated his deity.
- Bear in mind that each time John writes of a new sign from Jesus he is writing about works that only God could do – proof positive concrete evidence.

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**Seven Signs of Jesus**

Jesus Turns Water into Wine	John 2:1-11
Jesus Heals the Official's Son	John 4:43-54
Jesus Makes the Lame Walk	John 5:1-15
Jesus Feeds the Multitudes	John 6:1-15
Jesus Walks on Water	John 6:16-24
Jesus gives sight to the Blind	John 9:1-38
Jesus raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:1-44

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### The Gospel of John

- John will present the evidence for Jesus' Messiahship from chapter 2 through the end of chapter 11 when He raises Lazarus from the dead.
- His first miracle (sign) is done at a wedding – with God there are no accidents and no coincidences, this was intentional.
- Best guess as to why at a wedding is He wanted to honor the institution of marriage.

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### The Gospel of John

- In societies that value and honor the practice of executing a covenant of marriage before God, that society fairs better on a number of fronts.
- One example - Children are far more likely to be healthy emotionally when raised with both a mother and a father in the home and are less likely to be incarcerated.
- You can have a lifelong commitment to one sexual partner, but without marriage it is rare – for better, for worse actually carries weight in our psychic when we say, "I do".

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### The Gospel of John

"Any society that fails to honor marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman for life, in which children are reared and cared for; any society that diminishes marriage, that fails to honor marriage, is corrupt, is doomed to chaos, turmoil, evil and judgment. Where marriage for life is not honored, where the covenant vows between a man and a woman are not kept, immorality abounds and overruns the culture. The fabric of society is shredded. Our Lord honored marriage by attending and doing His first miracle at a wedding."

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### The Gospel of John

- Weddings in 1<sup>st</sup> century Israel would often last for days and the whole community would be invited.
- This particular wedding took place in Cana of Galilee where John, Andrew, Nathaniel, Philip, Peter and Mary were all known; they were neighbors for years.
- The best estimate on the population of Nazareth when Jesus lived was about 500 and Cana's population would have been just dozens.

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### The Gospel of John

- It is thought that Mary was at the wedding in a dual role much like some of our women might fill – a guest and one who would serve as well.
- Maybe she was involved somehow in serving the wine which would put her in a position to know if they had enough or not.
- When she comes to Jesus and says, “**They have no wine**” we might wonder why she would tell him.

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### The Gospel of John

- Up to this point in his life there are no records that He had performed any signs or miracles – later He will say, “my time has not yet come”.
- Did she recall the promises at his conception and had been waiting all these years for him to manifest what it is to be “the Son of God”?
- Or was it that she, as a widow, had learned to trust the judgment of her oldest son with so many things around the house that she was confident Jesus would know what to do?

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### The Gospel of John

- And why bother anyone, other than the bridegroom, with the shortage of wine?
- The entire wedding feast was 100% the responsibility of the bridegroom – it is what would prove to the bride and her family he could care and provide for her.
- The whole community probably watched the happy couple grow up, and they were planning to live in Cana, so the success (or not) of the feast would follow them.

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### The Gospel of John

- In that day, the young couple would become engaged and then marry a year later.
- In that year the young man would often add a room to his family's house and save money for the wedding feast thus proving his "provider" bona fides.
- So if it becomes known the wine had run out the groom would be embarrassed that he was not able to plan the feast and provide for his bride.

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### The Gospel of John

- And it was not as simple as we might do today – just keep the food coming and serve water to drink.
- There was not an abundance of clean drinking water – this is why wine became the ordinary drink of the day.
- Because there was no refrigeration the only way to preserve their thirst quencher was to ferment it – yes, Jesus drank real wine. (often diluted 5 to 1 with water) <sup>18</sup>

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### The Gospel of John

- It just might be that Mary was acting in a motherly way to shield the reputation of the young groom – perhaps she was simply acting out of kindness.
- Sadly, this text has been used by the Catholic church as the basis for going through Mary to gain access to Jesus.
- We should never build doctrine on the basis of one verse of scripture – shameful hermeneutics.

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### The Gospel of John

- And then Jesus says, “**Woman, what does this have to do with me?**” and some have seen fit to criticize him for what they see as disrespect for Mary.
- So why not address her as “mother”? Because the time has come for him begin his public ministry – up until now as a good son He made himself subject to her.
- Mary wasn’t insulted, she knew what John the Baptist said about her son – she also knew He had gone south and went through his temptation; she knew things were changing.

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### The Gospel of John

- Matt 12:48 But He replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” 49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, He said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”
- John 19:26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” 27 Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

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### The Gospel of John

- As it turns out Jesus will address the wine issue, but probably not only because his mother was in need of help.
- Mary must have had some sort of leadership role because she tells the servants to do what He says and they do it.
- **John 2:7** Jesus said to the servants, **“Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.**

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### The Gospel of John

- **“Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.”**
- Sitting before Jesus we now have between 120 and 180 gallons of water – let’s just call it 150 gallons.
- With no fanfare whatsoever He the says, **“Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.”**

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### The Gospel of John

- Of all the miracles Jesus did this one may be the most mysterious one of all – somewhere verses 7 and 8 roughly 150 gallons of water becomes wine.
- By the sheer force of his will the contents in the stone jars changes its chemical makeup from H<sub>2</sub>O to whatever the chemical makeup of wine is.
- Let me say it another way – 150 gallons of water is replaced by 150 gallons of wine; just like that!

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### The Gospel of John

- But for me to describe what happened as water being replaced by wine leaves out the part where Mary says, **“they have no wine”!**
- So Jesus must have either transformed the water to wine, or He must have removed the water and created the wine.
- Is one of those choices harder than the other? Is one more glorious than the other?

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### The Gospel of John

- There have been arguments as to the fermentation of the wine that was drawn and sent to the master of the feast.
- Was this alcoholic wine or did Jesus’ wine bypass the normal process for making wine?
- But to argue over that sort of minutia is to miss the point of the miracle! (BTW, if the wine was fermented, it makes the miracle even more impressive)

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### The Gospel of John

Jesus changed the contents of 150 gallons of liquid in those stone waterpots in an instant, with no apparent effort, with no apparent movement, and no apparent assistance. He willed the laws of nature to be suspended – much like the flour and oil in Zarephath, and the fishes and loaves, the laws of nature become subservient to the sovereign God of the universe for that purpose all creation must serve – the glory of God!

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### The Gospel of John

- If Jesus had never performed another miracle this one alone would validate his claims to deity.
- We could say the same about all his miracles as standalone events and the cumulative effect on mankind would make him the undeniable Son of God.
- The “signs and wonders” we will see in John’s gospel were all for a single purpose – to validate his claims to deity.

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### The Gospel of John

When the church of our day craves “signs and wonders” is it because we want God to be glorified, or is it more likely we are seeking some perceived benefit from God?

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### The Gospel of John

• John 2:11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

John 20:30-31

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