Jarvis Wipf

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Manifested Glory

John 2:1-11

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John 2:1-11 ***On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; [2]and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. [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 that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." [5] His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."***

[6] Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. [7]Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. [8]And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him.

[9] When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, [10]and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." [11]This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

The Setting: vs 1-2
The Situation: vs 3-5
The Solution: vs 6-10
The Significance: vs 11

In this story John relates for us the first miracle that Jesus did as He launched His public ministry and began to show His glory.

The Setting (v 1-2) The third day is counted from Jesus' encounter with Nathaneal in the last chapter. John has been relaying to us the events of the first week of Jesus' public ministry. The week began with the delegation from the Sanhedrin confronting John the Baptist, and it culminates with the miracle of this story on the seventh day.

There is a wedding taking place in Cana (where Nathanael was from), and Jesus' mother is there. Jesus and the disciples are invited to the wedding. Mary seems to have some role in the serving at the wedding. Given the close proximity to where Jesus and a number of the disciples grew up it is likely that this couple was a relative or a close family friend.

Similar to an engagement today there was a period of time before a wedding where the couple was promised to each other but not yet married. The difference is that theirs was a legally binding contract. During this period it was the groom's responsibility to make preparations. He needed to make sure he had a home prepared, as well as making all the necessary provisions for the wedding. The groom needed to show that he could take care of his wife.

A wedding celebration usually lasted several days, even up to a week. It was the groom's job to provide food and drink for all the guests. To fail would bring shame on himself and could even be grounds for a lawsuit from the bride's family.

In a time when life was very hard a celebration like that of a wedding was a special event in the community. People would leave their daily grind to come and celebrate with the couple.

On a side note Jesus is blessing the institution of marriage with His presence. The ceremony is an important part of marriage. The oaths of the couple making it a legal contract are essential.

The Situation (v 3-5) Wine was a big part in the celebration. In the Old Testament wine is often a sign of rejoicing, and abundance. In a world where clean water was often hard to come by, it was common to dilute wine with water reducing the intoxicating affect of the wine and acting as a purifier for the water. Depending on the amount of dilution, it would be difficult to drink enough to become intoxicated. Regardless, the presence of wine does not negate the Bible's prohibition of drunkenness.

The mother of Jesus came to Him with a dire concern. They were out of wine. Not only would it be hard to have a celebration without it, but the problems this could cause for the groom were enormous. The fact that Mary was so concerned about the situation indicates that the groom was likely a relative or close family friend.

It is likely that Mary's husband Joseph is no longer alive and that Jesus, being the oldest son has been responsible for taking care of her.

Rep. Dennent

Mary has become accustomed to Jesus solving problems for her. He always knew the right answer and had never let her down.

Jesus response to His mother (John never uses her name in the gospel) in verse 4 signifies a change in their relationship. The phrase "Woman, what does that have to do with us?" is designed to put seperation between them. Jesus calling her "Woman" is not rude, but it is not a term of enderment either. He uses the same word when He tells John to take care of her when He is dying on the cross.

Jesus is letting Mary know that as He begins His ministry she no longer has a say in His life. His reasoning is informative – "My hour has not yet come." Jesus refers to His "hour" or "work" many times. It is the cross to which He is referring. He is letting Mary know that He is on His Father's timetable, and He will be about His Father's business. He will do His Father's will (John 5:30)– not Mary's. Mary, like every other person must come to Him, not as her son, but as her SAVIOR.

Though Jesus gives her a rebuke, He did not tell her no, so she tells the servants to do whatever He asks. She does not know what He will do (this will be His first miracle), but she is confident that He will handle it. How different our lives would be if we had such confidence in His ability to handle any situation.

<u>The Solution (v6-10)</u> Standing close by were six stone waterpots used for Jewish purification rituals. These pots would become the means by which Jesus would provide an abundance of new wine.

Mark 7:3-4 - explains what these pots were used for.

> *3 For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders; 4 and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.*

Jesus tells the servants to fill the pots, and they do – clear to the brim. There is not room for anything else in the pots. He then tells them to take some to the head waiter. The head waiter would have been in charge of the serving at the wedding and would have wanted to taste the wine to make sure it was suitable to serve.

The head waiter was unaware of what had taken place. He was surprised to taste wine so good. Jesus performed a miracle. He bypassed the process of making wine. Just as when He created the world, He now created the wine from nothing, and it was very good. Not only had He created the best wine, but He had created an abundance of it – 120-180 gallons, much more than was needed for the feast. He had made a generous wedding gift as well.

<u>The Significance (v 11)</u> There is a lot of symbolism in this story.

- The groom was supposed to provide – Jesus, the bride groom, provided in abundance, just like He will for His bride, the Church.
- The pots for purification were filled to the brim – Jesus fulfills the Old Testament. The old system is done away with, and Jesus ushers in a new covenant symbolized by the wine.
- Wine in the Old Testament is linked to the coming of the Messiah (Amos 9:13-14; Jeremiah 31:12) – In His first Miracle Jesus creates an abundance of wine signaling His long awaited arrival.

Jesus' first miracle is done for family and friends. He provides so that the groom would not be shamed. It is largely done in secret ("my time has not yet come") as only a few knew what happened. The miracle is full of symbolism of the coming of the Messiah. It is a creative miracle showing His Deity. John relates this sign to convince his readers that Jesus is the Savior.

Jesus' glory was beginning to be revealed. This was just the beginning. Though the disciples witnessed this miracle and believed in Him they would soon see greater things.

How about you? Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ?

Bible Study Information:

Legislators Only

(and spouses)

Next Study: Tuesday, February 27th

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Perkins in Fort Pierre

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