

First Sign: Water to Wine (John 2:1-12)

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Messages posted at www.TheMessageofLife.com

The Living Water (Logos 21 Translation) unless otherwise noted

INTRODUCTION TO THE MESSAGE

REVIEW:

EXPOSITION:

Mary, Jesus & His Disciples Invited to Wedding in Cana (2:1-2)

Mary Told Jesus that No Wine Remained (2:3)

He Asked How This Affects Them; His Hour Is Future (2:4) 2

Jesus' address to her as *Woman* was a polite address

His statement *My time has not yet come* indicates that Mary expected Him to do a miraculous sign.

He says *My time has not yet come* in 7:6, 8; 8:16; 9:30.

Starting in 12:23, Jesus says that His time has come.

(Chapter 12 is less than a day from the cross)

Jesus did the sign, assisting Mary, but did so in the Father's timing. In John Jesus often says He follows Father's timing.

He was not reluctant to help; but follows Father's timing.

Mary Ordered the Servants to Obey Him (2:5)

Cana is ten miles from Nazareth (where Mary lived).

(approximately a three-hour trip)

As a poor woman, the fact that she went three hours from home and ordered servants to obey, the groom was a close relative (groom's family hosted: MC asked groom in 2:9-10).

This explains why both Jesus and Mary were invited.

(I think, from 6:42, that Joseph was still alive)

One denomination imagines this as basis for praying to Mary

120+ Gallons of Water Was There for Judean Purification (2:6) 3

Many Judean emigrés lived in Galilee, including Jesus' family.
I take it as the Judean custom (since the family was Judean)

This is sufficient water for guests' handwashing before meals

Abundant water proves it was a miracle (not sleight of hand)

The Servants Filled the Containers to the Brim, as He Said (2:7)

Filling the containers to the brim prevented adding anything

The Servants Took Some Water to the Master of Ceremonies, As Jesus Said (2:8)

They must have thought Jesus was crazy

The MC Did Not Know the Source of the Wine (as the Servants Did), So He Asked the Bridegroom a question (2:9)

MC Asked Groom Why He Served Inferior Wine First, Since 4 People Served Best First, until Guests Became Intoxicated (2:10)

This was wine. No refrigeration. Intoxication was conceivable

For the groom to delay serving the finer wine raised questions:

1. MC (who did not know) asked groom (who did not know)
2. They asked servants (who knew that Jesus did a sign)
3. They would have asked Jesus

Excursis: What about alcohol (and drugs)?

1. Bible does not forbid alcohol, but forbids drunkenness (e.g., Ephesians 5:18, etc.)
2. Those having a problem with alcohol should avoid it
3. Those under-age are not to drink alcohol (law of the land)
4. Drivers (etc.) must take care not to become impaired
5. Must not cause weaker brother to sin (Rom 14; 1 Cor 8)
6. Galatians 5:20 and Rev 18:23 warn against *sorcery*—*pharmakeia* (literally, "drugs")

This Was Jesus' First Sign Before His Disciples—Displaying His Divine Glory—they Believed in Him (as Messiah) (2:11)

Jesus' (Unbelieving) Brothers Saw the Sign & Stayed with Mary, Jesus & His Disciples Briefly in Capernaum w/o Believing (2:12)

CONCLUSION