

“What’s Going On Here?”

John 2:1-12

January 26, 2014

VIDEO:

Gospel of John 1:35-51 (5:15)

“What do you WANT?”

“Come and SEE”

“Follow Me”

Followers “find & fish for men”

v.49 = Teach, Save, Lead me...

“You WILL SEE”

(“You ain’t seen nothing yet!”)

T/S: “You have to collect the dots
before you can connect the dots.” - C. Krauthammer

You’ll never BE what you cannot SEE. - JDP

T/S: Here’s a great summarizing message from ch.1

VIDEO: “Mediator” (by Ghost Ship – 3:25)

T/S: Don't miss the progressive Gospel themes...

1:1-18 = Theological "The Walk of God"

1:19-34 = Christological "Who Are You?"

1:35-51 = Evangelical "God Has A Plan"

2:1-12 = Supernatural "What's Going On Here?"

Answer: *We're getting a sneak peek at the King!*

Qt: "Jesus begins His public ministry in ch.2... Whereas ch.1 was filled with "words of the Word," ch.2 continues the "walk of," and introduces the "WORKs of the Word." -JDP

Qt: *Jesus is coming to the Events & Environments of traditional Judaism to demonstrate & then declare His deity!* -JDP

T/S: Watch now as the promises of ch.1 become the party of ch.2...

VIDEO: *Gospel of John 2:1-12* (3:40)

PREVIEW: *“Here we see John replacing the mechanics of Judaism with the Messianic Jesus.” -JDP*

Intro: We’ll unpack 8 pillars of this passage on our way to the Promised Land!

1. **Context**
2. **Cast of Characters**
3. **Catastrophe**
4. **Conflict**
5. **Containers**
6. **Content**
7. **Christ, the Creator-God**
8. **Conclusion: Christ-likeness**

Context:

To start: contrast John the Baptist (*“a voice in the wilderness”*) and Jesus (**personal and tabernacled** amongst the people)...

Qt: “The story of Cana... is far more than a story about a wedding and some wine. It is a story that carries remarkable symbolism for Jews and their Messiah. Moreover, it is a story that makes a sweeping commentary on the world into which Jesus is coming...”

John gives us numerous clues that the story should be viewed symbolically. The wedding scene, the huge volume of wine, and the reference to stone jars all suggest a second level of meaning.

When Jews reflected on what heaven or the arrival of the Messiah would be like, they thought about banquets, and the wedding banquet was the foremost model that came to mind.”

- **NIV Commentary**

Each of Jesus' **8 recorded “signs”/miracles in John’s Gospel** serve a specific purpose and help us see the portrait of Jesus the Messiah... It is no coincidence that this is His “first” sign, miracle, and/or purpose. Remember: **everything starts with Creator-God!**

Cast of characters:

Mary

- *“His mother”* a.k.a. *“woman”*
 - Used again of Mary at the cross
 - Used with woman at the well
 - Used with adulterous woman
 - Used of Mary Mag. at the tomb
- person of influence at wedding...

Jesus

- “average” guest... AND eternal God!

Disciples

- appear to be “*passive*” players...
- prove to be **people of purpose** (v11)

Servants

- like many today: *active but ignorant*
- “**no doubt, but no change**”

Master of the Banquet

Groom

Guests

T/S: Okay... so let’s jump into John 2...

1 *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.

The parallel between this intentional marking of Christ’s “**first miracle,**” and the culmination of Christ’s **greatest Messianic miracle** (his resurrection) are both linked through the subtle “***third day***” reference....

Weddings were *the chief celebrations* enjoyed in the year, the quintessential imagery of messianic celebration & joy.

Catastrophe!

3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

- Could be sued...
- Casts disrespect upon bride & her family
- Possible cultural impact for generations

Qt: "'*They have no wine*' is not simply a comment by Mary about the panic of the wedding's host. It is a theological statement about the Judaism that is now meeting its Messiah in his very first miracle." - **NIV Commentary**

What will you do when YOUR wine runs out???

YOLO for the youth... toxic arsenic!

Mom's suicidal death...

Sometimes the *wine runs out during the "best times"*

Dad's work "friends" after change of benefits

Hemingway/suicide/bucket-list/Margaretville

VIDEO: “Where I Belong” (I’m not home yet – 3:25)

Qt: *The past does not = the future unless you live there.*

Conflict...

4 *And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? **My hour has not yet come.**”*

Referring to Mary as “woman” rather than “mother” reveals that **Jesus is from this time forward ALL about His FATHER’s business...**

Jesus is declaring the transition time in their relationship... He is letting Mary (and others) know that His role in her life is no longer “primarily” that of her son... but her Savior!

“My hour” (has not yet come)... It is **used throughout...**

See the connection between the last sermon/section (***“God Has A Plan”***) and the **surgical precision of Jesus’ statement** regarding His “hour” (vs. day, month, year...)

NOTE: John 12:23 = “now the hour is here”

NOTE: Roman Catholicism points to this passage to rationalize their teaching about “going to Mary as an intercessor to Jesus.” Like calling Peter the Rock vs. the rock... Catholicism similarly thinks that this passage encourages people to go to Mary vs. Jesus directly... such misinterpretations are woefully WRONG!

After-thought to consider..... Mary’s nudging of Jesus MAY have come from her confidence in Him to solve problems... Imagine being Mary... you KNOW He has never had a bad idea in His life

***5 His mother said to the servants,
“Whatever He says to you, do it.”***

*** Don’t miss Mary’s message...

*** Read Matthew 28:18-20

*** Remember: “If you love Me... obey”

Containers...

6 ***Nearby stood **six stone water jars**, the kind used by the Jews **for ceremonial purification** (cleansing), each holding from 20-30 gallons.***

An image of both quantity & quality! (context counts)

Contents... (in the Containers)

7 *Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.*

NOTE: Jesus said... they obeyed... blessing followed!

The Role of faithful obedience...

Jesus never said He was going to make wine...

He just told the servants to fill the jars with water
(something they COULD do)

Realize that signs/miracles don't always make sense along the way...

Still, Jesus doesn't call us to make sense of what He 's doing, He calls and commands us to faithfully obey .

***** Question:** How many times do you think you missed out on a miracle because you disobeyed? What has unbelief cost you?

*** He never tells us to “perform” a miracle - that's His part!
(See Tozer on “manufactured miracles”)

- “fill the jars with WATER”
- “filled to the BRIM” with water
- WINE comes out
 - Wine without fermentation
 - Wine without any other additives (“filled to the brim”)
 - “BEST” wine...
 - “Some of you, like the servants and the guests at this wedding, have played a very real part in the pouring out and consuming of Christ’s miraculous signs, and yet you remain indifferent or opposed to His gracious call on your life...”

“Hear our Christ today consumer: “Follow Me!”” - JDP

(For an in-depth understanding of the role wine played in Jesus’ day, and how to apply biblical principles to one’s contemporary relationship with alcohol, the (2) John MacArthur sermons below are highly recommended.)

John MacArthur Sermon: ***“Christians and Alcohol”***

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-380/christians-and-alcohol>

John MacArthur Sermon: ***“Interrogating Alcohol”***

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-381/interrogating-alcohol>

8 Then he told them, *"Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."*

*They did so, 9 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 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have drunk freely; but **you have saved the best till now.**"*

"Just do it!"

This constitutes a counter-cultural contrast...

You saved the best for last...

Qt: "Jesus is delivering something to the banquet quite unexpected. It is superior to anything the banquet has witnessed. John's emphasis, therefore, is on the quality of this wine and its timing; things served before this wine are inferior... We have created rituals and customs that have everything to do with religious habits but may have little to do with God. In some fashion I have to be willing to permit Jesus to step into my world and affect a dramatic critique of these things"

- **NIV Commentary**

Qt: “The beginning of Moses' miracles was turning water into blood, [Ex 7:20](#); the beginning of Christ's miracles was turning water into wine; which may remind us of the difference between the law of Moses and the gospel of Christ.” - **Matthew Henry**

NOTE: “God always saves His best for the end of the feast”
VS. Joel Osteen’s – “Your best life now” philosophy...

NOTE: Jesus in both the broadest sense (theme) as well as in the details surrounding the 30 gallon urns (used for ceremonial cleansing) being filled with “new wine,” is drawing the parallel between the old, empty rituals of Judaism being replaced with the new covenant promise of Christ’s cleansing and fulfillment of joy everlasting.

NOTE: the servants show no sign of believing in Jesus... IT TAKES A MIRACLE of GRACE! (see [\(2 Cor. 4:4\).](#))”

By contrast...

Connect last week’s text with this one:

“You aint seen nothing yet!” (1:50)

“The best is yet to come!” (2:1-10)

Important Distinction: looking at the new wine is not the same as tasting & enjoying it for the duration (forever) - JDP

*** See that Jesus created more than enough wine for everyone

AMOS 9:13-14 = *"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; **When the mountains will drip sweet wine** And all the hills will be dissolved. "Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit.*

HOSEA 2:22 = *"And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel."*

KEY: see v.10 as foretelling (mercifully) that the world, the flesh, and the devil's parties are all deceptive, bait-and-switch, sinful-trappings...

Sadly we're so often like the Israelites & the golden calf...

Christ, the Creator-God!

11a *What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which He revealed His glory;*

CRITICAL: Connect the last text's echoing message with this one's....

"You aint seen nothing yet!" (1:50)

"The best is yet to come!" (2:1-10)

John chooses "sign" vs. "miracle" because the implication is more important than the application.

Remember: the performance of miracles did not affirm that the one calling for the miracle (or its fulfillment) affirm said person to be the Messiah (many of the O.T. prophets, and later, N.T. disciples "performed" many miracles).

NOTE: ALL apocryphal books and ANY other extra-biblical accounts that record or claim that Jesus performed miracles in His childhood, youth, or previous adult life are in direct contradiction to John 2:11...

KEY POINT: the Messiah has arrived and the messianic banquet (portrayed as a wedding feast) has begun!

See how 2:11 expands & gives Christ-ness to the context of John 1:1, 12, & 14!

Qt: (Ironside) *"...in verse 11, "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him." That might well be linked up with chap. 1:14. There we read that our Lord Jesus Himself "was made flesh and dwelt among us."*

That verse gives us the key to all the wonderful symbolism of the tabernacle in the wilderness. It was a house of curtains, and inside, in the holiest of all, between the cherubim, a glorious Light was shining, which was the visible manifest presence of God. The people could not see the glory. But if you can imagine, for a moment, the curtains parting and the brilliant light revealed between those golden boards, it would be the glory shining out. Well, that is what we have here in the miracles of Jesus. It was like drawing back the curtains of the earthly tabernacle to expose the Shekinah, for "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself."

"Christ's miracles are His shining rays of glory." - JDP

VIDEO: "Jude's Doxology" (by Ghost Ship - 4:00)

Qt: “From the earliest days, the Eastern Church has kept January 6 as the festival of Epiphany. On this day, the nativity of Jesus, the coming of the wise men, Jesus' baptism, and the miracle of Cana are all remembered. It is significant that Cana is included in this list. In some sense, the church fathers were reflecting the idea that something happened at Cana that parallels what occurred both in Bethlehem and in the Jordan River. Christ's glory—his true identity—was unveiled for humanity to see. The revelation of glory is precisely what happened at Cana.” - **NIV Commentary**

Conclusion: Christ-likeness!

Don't forget John's ultimate & declared purpose:

John 20:30-31

“...many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Apologetic: “that you will **KNOW**”

Evangelistic: “that you will **BELIEVE**”

11b - 12 ...and His disciples believed in Him.
After this He went down to Capernaum with
His mother and brothers and His disciples.
There they stayed for a few days.

The epitome of celebration!

Those who believe, receive, & follow = "*Made Alive*"

Close:

Friend... it's time for "new Wine!"

VIDEO: "*Made Alive*" (by Citizens - 3:40)

Let's Pray!