

Episode #1-10 - The Water and the Wine

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. In John 1:35-51, we saw many bear testimony to the truth of the Word: that He is the Christ (Messiah,) and the Son of God. Having introduced us to the Word and presented witnesses as to the truth of his statements, John now moves on to present us with signs to prove his premise.

III. The “signs” in John’s gospel.

A. Not called miracles or wonders, but signs (Greek *semeion*).

B. We are expected to count them (verse 11, 4:54. We count ourselves then.)

C. Eight total, seven before death, burial, resurrection. First corresponds with last, etc.

III. John 2:1-11. The first sign: water into wine.

A. Verse 1. Three days later. Cana in Galilee (also in Asher.) Marriage of a relative of Christ? No mention of Joseph. Mary never named in John.

B. Verse 2. Disciples too (6 at this time?) Invitation made in person?

C. Too poor to have enough wine? Mary in charge, brings to Jesus. Good example

D. “Woman” a Greek term of endearment. The Lord always concerned with the proper time for things. Not time yet for miracles. Works at mother’s request.

E. Mary in charge. Servants (*diakonos*) not slaves. Last recorded words of Mary!

F. Verse 6. For ritual cleansing of hands (not sanitary, like us.) A set amount of water for everyone. A firkin = 9 gallons, 18-27 apiece in jars. Large pots!

G. V. 7. The cleansing already complete, so need to refill. The Lord commands. A very big job! “Fill” here, “Cast” in John 21:6 (great catch of fish.)

H. Verses 8. “Draw” means from the well, not the waterpots. They were unclean. Like the circling of Jericho, established faith. Draw from well to governor.

I. Verse 9. The servants are in suspense. Will he condemn the “wine” as water?

J. Verse 10. He chides the bridegroom for serving the best wine last, against custom. The Lord often saves the best for last.

K. Verse 11. The “sign” produces faith in the disciples. Should in us too, the purpose of the signs. Power over nature is a sign that He is the Son of God.

IV. Conclusion. The sign of the water turned to wine proves the Lord’s power over nature as the Son of God. His disciples believed because of these things. The question for us: do we believe?