

The Wedding at Cana – Gospel of John chapter 2, verses 1 – 11 and verse 23:-

Note the use of “*manifested*” in verse 23. Remember the definition, ‘*Manifest – to show something clearly through signs or actions*’. This is the theme of the Epiphany season. The author of this Gospel (John) uses the word “*sign*” for miracle. Through the signs which He performed, the Lord Jesus Christ “*revealed His glory*” (chapter 2, verse 11. See also verse 23). For the importance of these ‘signs’ see Matthew chapter 11, verses 2 – 6. They were to convince John the Baptist that Jesus was indeed the expected Messiah.

Chapter 2, verses 1 – 2:- The “*third day*” may refer to the arrival of the Lord Jesus at Nazareth (see chapter 1, verse 43). Jesus and His disciples seem to have been staying at his old home and the wedding invitation was to Jesus, his disciples and His mother.

Verses 3 – 5:- At a village celebration there would have been a number of neighbours attending without having ‘official’ invites. With unexpected guests they ran out of wine! Mary, knowing her son, expects him to ‘do something’. For the Lord Jesus the expectation of a ‘miracle’ is premature. In the Gospels the ‘Hour’ of the Lord Jesus is His Passion. See the Gospel of John chapter 7, verse 30; chapter 8, verse 20; chapter 12, verse 23; chapter 13, verse 1; chapter 17, verse 1 and Mark chapter 14, verse 35.

Note the fact that His mother has faith in Him – “*Do whatever He tells you.*”

Verses 6 – 8:- Jesus makes use of the large stone water jars which would have been used for the ceremonial cleansing before the meal. There may have been some water already in them. Jesus asks for them to be filled. The water is then dipped out and taken to the ‘Master of Ceremonies’.

Note that water from stone jars was used for the Jewish ritual hand washing before and during the meal. In his use of this water for his miracle He demonstrates the barrenness of the ritual. Instead He provides wine “*that maketh glad the heart of man*” Psalm 104, verse 15. Not only that but an abundance of wine. Remember that this abundant generosity of the lord was also apparent at the feeding of the five thousand (Matthew chapter 14, verse 10) and the four thousand (Matthew 15, verse 37).

Verses 9 – 10:- There was not only an abundance of wine but it was the best quality! At this wedding feast most were ignorant of the background to this new supply of wine. The Master of Ceremonies didn’t know, presumably neither did the bridegroom. It was the obedient servants who were privileged with the knowledge of the miracle.

Verse 11:- The author of this Gospel emphasises that this miracle led to the disciples believing in the Lord Jesus. There were many ups and downs to come before the full realisation that this was indeed the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Read Philippians 4; 19. Remember that it is not in just in great miracles that the Lord provides for us. Rather it is in the small, everyday needs that He is there, working unseen and often unrecognised. Give thanks for his small mercies as well as His great ones!

*His love has no limit, his grace has no measure,
his power no boundary known unto men;
for out of his infinite riches in Jesus
he giveth and giveth and giveth again!*

From the hymn by Annie J Flint 1866 - 1932 ‘He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater’