

The glory of Jesus revealed

Jesus has arrived in Cana, Nathanael's home town (see 21:2). John records the first of Jesus' "signs"—a word John uses for a miracle.

Read **John 2:1-11**

A "sign" is a wonderful action of Jesus that points to some deep truth about Him. This sign is in three parts.

The problem: **v1-5**

Presumably Jesus' mother knows something about her son's powers, and suggests this would be a good time for a miracle! Jesus' reply (**v4**) isn't very encouraging. It is not rude, but it certainly keeps his mother in her place. The point is that no one except God the Father tells Jesus what to do or sets His timetable.

TIME OUT

The theme of the Father's "timetable" for His Son is a big theme in John's Gospel. Sneak a forward look at some of the other places in this Gospel where we see the Lord Jesus setting the pace to fit His Father's timing: **7:6, 8, 30; 8:20; 12:3; 13:1**.

The symbolism: **v6, 7**

- What was the water used for?

The aim was "purification". Jesus brings something far better than the Old Covenant shadows. "The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (**1:17**). True purification comes through Jesus.

The problem of running out of wine creates shame for the groom.

- How do Jesus' actions "save" the groom?

The glory: **v8-11**

Notice how John never records the actual turning of water into wine! He is not so interested in the creative chemistry - he is more concerned to convey to us its meaning.

- What does he stress about the wine, by the way he tells the story?
What is the significance of the quality?

John says in **verse 11** that this sign revealed the glory of Jesus.

- What is glory? "Glory" means the outward visible display of His inward invisible being. I also like the definition of glory as the true weight/significance of someone.
- Look back to **1:14**: what invisible nature of Jesus is made visible in this sign?

APPLICATION

What does this "sign" point to?

In this account we see Jesus turning the shame of the groom to honour. How does this account impact your understand of God's attitude towards you?

How does this this account impact your heart?

Who do you know would benefit from hearing this account and it's significance?

PRAY

Think about how Jesus can cleanse us through and through, removing our shame and restoring our honor. Praise Him for the high-class vintage wine of the gospel and the promise of life to the full.