

Signs, Wine, and Glory

John 2:1-12

We continue our series entitled "We Have Seen His Glory" (John 1:14). Today, the disciples will see Jesus' first miraculous sign, which John says "manifested his glory" (John 2:11).

Jesus at the Wedding in Cana: Signs, Wine, and Glory

[1] Signs

"Miracle" = a work of power. Matthew, Mark, and Luke use this word (*dunamis*).

"Sign" (*semeion*) in the Gospel of John emphasizes the meaning of the work of power.

- They are not random, arbitrary acts of power!

[2] Wine

This passage describes a culture different than ours!

- Long, multi-day wedding receptions... Jesus says "woman" to his Mom—but this isn't disrespectful.
- And if you run out of wine, this is very, very bad.

Wine: In Scripture, wine is a sign of abundant, fruitful life (Isaiah 25:6-8, Prov 3:9-10, Deut 7:13, Ps 104:15).

- Yet there are many warnings about it, too (Prov 20:1, 21:17; Hab 2:5).
 - Something that is a sign of an abundant, fruitful life is often seized *for its immediate pleasure* (wine, food, intimacy), and it ends up taking away an abundant life!

- Still, enjoyed appropriately, wine is good. Furthermore, this wine is associated with a wedding!
 - Marriage is also associated with fruitful abundance: "Be fruitful and multiply!" (Gen 1:28; consider also Eph 5:31-32, Rev 19:6-10)

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

[3] Glory

"This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him." (John 2:11)

- Consider how the Hebrew word for glory (*kavod*) can mean "weighty." Something of substance. Solid. Heavy. Important! Not hollow or shallow, but the real deal.

For further reflection and application:

1. Read John 2:1-12.
2. What does Jesus' presence and help say about the importance of marriage?
 - About marriage, consider Genesis 1:28, Eph 5:31-32, Rev 19:6-10.
3. Some commentators have found good examples for the Christian life in verses 2:5, 7. How did the servants respond to Christ's instructions? How about you?
4. What is John's conclusion from what he witnessed in Cana? (1:11)
 - Explain how this verse shows Jesus is *more* than a miracle-working prophet (like Elijah, Moses).