

Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master
Discipleship in Real Time*



Volume 10 - Number 3

The Week of October 20, 2024

Come and See
Glory in the Ordinary
John 2:1-11

Jesus performs His first miracle at a wedding in Cana, revealing His divine power. When the wedding hosts ran out of wine, a significant social embarrassment in Jewish culture, Jesus' mother brings the problem to Him. Initially reluctant, Jesus instructs the servants to fill six stone jars, normally used for ceremonial washing, with water. He transforms the water into superior vintage wine, surprising the master of the banquet. The miracle not only shows Jesus' compassion for the needs of others, but also His authority over creation.

The miracle matters because it reveals how Jesus will fulfill and surpass the old with something new and better. For the disciples, the miracle deepened their understanding of Jesus as the Messiah, whose power extended beyond the physical to the spiritual realm. This miracle also reminds us of Jesus' ability to transform our lives, meeting both our physical and spiritual needs, and calls us to trust in His provision and power.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say and how does it say it?*)

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Read the passage and answer the 5 W's below:
 - Who:
 - What:
 - Where:
 - When:
 - Why:
- Place brackets around the time stamp in verse 1.
- In the left margin of verses 1-5 write: *The Problem*
- In the left margin of verses 6-11 write: *The Miracle*
- Circle all occurrences of the word *wine*.
- Place a box around the two words *hour* and *signs*. Define what is meant by the most important theological words in the passage.
- Place a forward-pointing arrow underneath the same temporal connector used in verses 3 and 9 which advances the story.
- Underline any phrase in the passage that is unclear to you.

¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

⁸ And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.

⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

- Summarize in one sentence what this passage is about:

INTERPRETATION (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to perform His first miracle at a wedding? What significance does this setting have?
2. What do you make of the interaction between Mary and Jesus? What did Jesus mean by saying, *My hour has not yet come*? How does this reflect His awareness of His mission and timing? What was Jesus also gently saying to His mother?
3. What role do the servants play in this miracle?
4. What is the symbolic importance of Jesus turning water into wine? Why is the abundance and quality of the wine noteworthy? How is the new better?

5. How did this miracle reveal His glory and result in His disciples believing in Him?

APPLICATION (*How does the passage apply to our lives?*)

1. Jesus shows that God is present even in our most ordinary moments. How often do we look for God in the dramatic, yet miss Him in the everyday? Share an example from your own experience.
2. What does this story teach us about being patient and trusting God's timing, especially when His actions seem delayed?
3. How can you apply the servants' example of obedience in your life today?
4. Jesus performed this miracle *quietly* without seeking public attention. What does this teach us about humility and acts of service?
5. Jesus changed a lot of water into wine. Recall question #4 under Interpretation. What does such abundance mean for you personally?
6. What lessons can you learn from the disciples in this passage, particularly in how it impacted their understanding of who Jesus is? How does this story encourage you in your own discipleship?

