

The Beginning of Signs

John 2:1-11

As we move into chapter two, we find a record of Jesus' first miracle and John's first sign. John's gospel is the only record we have of this miracle. As we noted in the introduction to John's gospel, he is very selective in the signs that he chose to share.

- **Miracles are not normative.** We often today use the word miracle in a very generic manner. We see signs, "Miracle tonight at 7:00 p.m." We see placards, "Expect a miracle."

Does God do miracles today? Yes, but not nearly as often as some might think! In other words, if miracles were happening every day, we would call them *regulars*!

- **This particular miracle is misunderstood by many.** When we come to this miracle, there are several places where we could go astray, places where we could read too much into things we do not know for certain. Things that make us uncomfortable!
 - **It seems that Jesus is somewhat disrespectful to his mother.**
 - **It appears Jesus performed the miracle somewhat against his will.**
 - **It raises the question concerning the use/misuse of wine/alcohol.**

To be certain, Jesus was not disrespectful to his mother but was drawing the distinction that now that his public ministry was engaged, their relationship would change.

Jesus was very aware of the Divine calendar of events. Mary did not coerce Jesus into acting prematurely or outside of the Father's will.

Be careful not to read into this miracle an unrestrained and unbiblical understanding of the use of alcohol.

- **The context of the miracle was a wedding. (2:1-4)** Weddings are a very special time, a time of great celebration and joy. This was especially true in the Eastern culture.

Weddings are also a time of great social pressure; everyone wants everything to be "perfect." Remember the stress of planning a wedding event? Multiply that by about a hundred times, and you will understand the ancient wedding ceremony!

- **The problem.**
- **The problem presented to Jesus.**
- **The problem resolved by Jesus' power.**
- **Miracles are designed to bring glory to God. (11)** The response was total amazement, but not everyone knew the whole story.

Most of the people may have never known about the miracle, but His disciples did! We might say that this beginning miracle, even though it happened in a public setting, was really a somewhat private miracle.

Take aways: Jesus was following His Father's plan, moving towards His hour, the cross!

Jesus has all power, even power of the natural world.

Jesus cares about everything that affects you!