



## **Gary Inrig – The Miracles (A Sign In The Wine)**

*Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Stood Out To You – and “Why?”*

### **Week 1 – Read Chapter One: “A Sign In The Wine” - Read – John 2:1-11**

**Opening Prayer:** Invite God to humble hearts and open minds to His truth.

**Overview:** At the wedding in the small village of Cana, Jesus performs His first miracle by turning water into wine. But this isn't just a story about avoiding a socially embarrassing moment. This miracle reveals something unique about who Jesus is and why He came. The six stone water jars, holding 120 - 150 gallons were used for Jewish ceremonial washing, but here – they are turned into vessels of transformation. (*Water into Wine*). Jesus doesn't just prevent our shame and embarrassment (*the outer man*); He transforms us and provides abundance and grace. The water represents – “external rituals and religious practices”- that can never cleanse the human heart, while wine symbolizes joy, celebration, and the new life that Jesus brings. Jesus has come to replace the water of empty religion with the wine of transforming grace. Most of the wedding guests enjoyed the wine but missed Jesus. They saw the blessing but missed the Blesser. The servants saw power, but only the disciples saw beyond the miracle to His glory and believed. This should challenge us all to ask ... Are we simply enjoying the blessings in our lives, or are we seeing and acknowledging the provider of our blessings? Jesus specializes in turning the ordinary into the extraordinary – shame into honor. ... and yes – water into wine!

***"We take for granted the slow miracle whereby water in the irrigation of a vineyard becomes wine. It is only when Christ turns water into wine, in a quick motion, as it were, that we stand amazed." — Saint Augustine***

### **SOME KEY POINTS:**

- Jesus chose an obscure setting (the village of Cana) and a small crisis (running out of wine at a wedding) for His first public miracle, demonstrating His concern for the ordinary things of life.
- The miracle was a "sign" intended to reveal Jesus's identity and glory, not just to display His power.
- Jesus used ceremonial water jars (used for Jewish purification rituals) to symbolically announce that He came to replace the water of external religious cleansing w/ the new wine of eternal spiritual cleansing.
- The Lord's response to His mother Mary established that His mission was directed by His heavenly Father, not earthly relationships, and that His "hour" (the cross) had not yet come.
- Jesus -demonstrated that God's grace and love (like the wine) overflows - He saves the best for last.

**Read John 2:1-11 as a group.**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Share a memorable wedding story, something funny, touching, or unexpected that happened at a wedding you attended or participated in?

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2. Jesus' response to Mary seems quite blunt: "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." How do you understand this exchange? What was Jesus communicating to His mother? Also, what does this imply regarding their relationship?

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3. Jesus used ceremonial purification jars—not just any containers—for His miracle. What symbolic significance do you think this had?

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4. The master of ceremonies declared, "*You have kept the good wine until now.*" How might this observation apply to God's nature?

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5. Jesus performed this miracle stealthily, without drawing attention to Himself. Most guests enjoyed the wine but missed the sign. Most never saw it – just a few. Why do you think Jesus did it this way? What does this teach us about faith?

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6. In the book – Gary – notes that Jesus is "*Lord of the little things and the little places.*" What "*little things*" in your life do you need to bring to, and trust to Jesus? How does this miracle encourage you to do so?

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### **Things to Do this Week - Try to Put Into Practice One or Two**

**#1: Watch out for the "Small Stuff":** Try to be tuned daily to identify one "ordinary" (seemingly inconsequential moment or place) where God might want to reveal His glory. Journal it and share with someone else – you know what happened today at ... "the car wash"?

**#2: Practice Mary's Trust:** Identify one area of life or situation where you need to trust Jesus without knowing the outcome. Can You Pray: "*Lord, I don't know what you'll do, but I trust you – have your way*" – then be willing to surrender to His will – and leave all the consequences to Him.

**#3. Count your Blessings and Thank the Blesser:** Make a list or a mental note of the blessings you've recently received – and spend time thanking God specifically as the source. Share your gratitude (of what God has done) with someone else this week.

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**Closing Prayer:** *(this prayer is only a suggestion - please be encouraged to pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads)* – **Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.**

Thank You Jesus for revealing Your glory in this world through signs and wonders – and at times we've enjoyed Your blessings without thanking You – help us to be prepared to notice Your blessings – especially in the "little things" and in the "ordinary places" we go – Help us to trust You Lord Jesus even when we don't fully understand the outcome You are achieving. Help us to see that ALL things really do work together for good – we pray in Jesus name amen!"