

The Wedding

Harsaniku

John 2:1-25

A wedding is a happy occasion when a new family will be established. We are invited to Cana, the small city Nathanael came from, where there is a wedding. Jesus and his mother are invited. When there is wedding in any small town in the Middle East, the entire town population is invited. This is a happy occasion. Let us read the passage:

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

This miracle or sign is easy to understand. There was a shortage, and Jesus, turned the water to wine. That's it.

No, it not as simple as it looks.

-We can look at this event theologically, and culturally. What is John is telling us?

- The story carries remarkable symbolism. What is Jesus doing and teaching them and us today?

Wine? Run out (սլակուեցաւ); 6 stone jars of water for purification; new wine, new aged wine, the best wine, abundance and best wine served....

Let us analyze the story:

A wedding is going on, the wine runs out. It seems Mary has a role in organizing the wedding. She approaches Jesus and tells him that there is no more wine. (Like, "Son, do something...")

-**"Woman, why do you involve me?"** These sound like harsh words coming from Jesus. Not true. While on the cross, Jesus also said to his mother and the beloved disciple:

"Woman, here is your son,"²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." (John 19:26b-27a)

It is a respectful way of saying. "My dear Lady, Mrs., *Digin* in Armenian, *Ov Gin* Excuse me Lady, what did you say?"

-Next phrase: **"My hour has not yet come."**

Gospel of John is divided to two major parts. We have the prologue 1:1-18, then Chapters 1-12 are the **Book of Signs**. We will encounter seven signs. We will discuss these later in the year.

Chapters 13-21 are the **Book of Glory** when Jesus interprets the "hour of glorification", his departure through the cross.¹

The hour...Ժամը An important topic.

-Jesus replied, **"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."** (John 12:23 NIV 11)

- **"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son."** (John 17:1 NIV 11)

Jesus' hour is the hour in which he will manifest himself through his passion to accomplish the will of God: the cross, the resurrection, the ascension.

"So mother, that hour is not yet here. And you will not tell me when that hour will arrive."

Interesting, Jesus is not rude. He does provide for the need. There was a shortage, and he was ready to assist.

Cultural background.

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. (John 2:6-7 NIV 11)

-Those are not just jars holding water for drinking. They are made of stone, use for purification washings (Mark 7:1-4). Jars of clay could be contaminated. Now notice the amount of the water that is there, each twenty gallons of water. Jesus demanded that they should be filled to the brim. Brothers and sisters, Jesus wants to turn 120 gallons of water to wine.

He takes the “holy” water and uses it for something else to something much better. And please notice the amount: abundance.

-There is a wedding, they ran out of the wine, (*amot*, shame) big shame in the Middle East, or even here. Imagine in your wedding you did not have enough beverage, or enough wedding cake for the guest. Jesus understands the dynamics of his culture, and he cares... he cares...

The sign:

Why turning the water to wine, is a sign?

Let me give you two OT passages that explain why this is a sign.

-Jeremiah talks about sign of new covenant:

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. (Jer. 31:31 NIV)

They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD— the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, (Jer. 31:12 NIV)

-Amos also talks about restoration of Davidic kingship:

“In that day, I will restore David’s fallen shelter— I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins—and will rebuild it as it used to be,... New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills,” (Amos 9:11,13 NIV)

Wow, do you see how turning the water into wine was not just for the sake of hospitality; it was much more. The waters of purification are not necessary anymore. We will be “purified” justified, sanctified, saved, redeemed, by the “new wine” — the blood of Jesus. Abundance of new wine, the best new wine, and new covenant, the Messiah is here.

Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.

Yes, the Old vs the New. The law is fulfilled in Jesus, the best came.

New covenant, new wine, new creation, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Creation is continuing. Turning water to wine is creation. And best wines need time aging... Jesus did that in a second. **Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:3)**

What was the result:

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11 NIV)

They believed. The glory of Jesus was revealed, and they believed.

Application:

1. What areas in your life are filled with “water” that needs to be transformed to new, the best wine? Are you holding the old jars of water, and not allowing Jesus to transform your heart, old habits, old life to new life?

I did not cover the rest of the chapter. Jesus enters to the Temple and cleanses it from corruption. Oh, how much corruption (a sinful heart) needs the cleansing of Jesus?

I would love to see Jesus entering right now in the political world and cleanse those evil leaders. My heart is in pain for Armenians suffering because evil governments can go to war, killing people, and rest of the world can watch. I would love to see Jesus cleansing this evil world.

Let me clarify an important theological concept. Jesus died on the cross and rose so we will be saved, and have victory over the sin and death. It is free and act of God's grace.

But we need the daily washing of our dirty feet by allowing Jesus' "new wine" "the new covenant" "his presence" to transform our lives to be Christ like people.

2. Don't get stuck searching signs to believe.

Do we need a sign, a miracle to believe?

"John makes an important connection between the sign (the miracle of water into wine) and belief.... John is careful not to call these events miracles. He prefers the word "sign". Why?

This is because the act of power in itself is less important to John than what the act says about Jesus.

John wants us to see beyond this event, to see the sign as means to an end, not an end itself. The story invites us to ask penetrating questions about this person (Jesus), and when we glimpse his glory (2:11a) we will discover faith."²

Do we need a sign, a miracle to believe?

Jesus said to Thomas: "**Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**"(John 20:29 NIV)

Please experience the glory of Jesus in have intimate relationship with daily. He will reveal himself to you daily. Allow the Spirit of God to penetrate your heart and mind and soul.

It is wedding; we, the church are the bride, let us rejoice and be glad in the presence of the groom Jesus.

1. Gary M. Bruce, *NIV Application Commentary*. p88

2. *ibid* p 99