

Water Into Wine

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 07 · October 25, 2026

Scripture:

John 2:1–12

Big idea: Every sign points to Jesus. He is far better than anything we could offer to make ourselves right with God, so see His glory and believe in Him.

Memory verse (all ages): John 2:11 — “This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.”

MOTIVATION (WHY YOU NEED THIS)

We use the word *miracle* for a lot of things...

- A last-second game-winning touchdown or field goal
- Finding a parking spot close to the door when it's cold outside
- A struggling student passing an exam

I'm not sure these things are miracles, although they might be favorable!

What's a miracle? God acting in a way that goes beyond the normal workings of nature.

Why did Jesus do miracles? John the writer doesn't call them *miracles*, he calls them *signs*, meaning that they pointed to something beyond themselves.

John 20:31 (ESV) ...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Every sign points us to one question: **Who is this man, and will you believe in Him?**

INFORMATION (WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW)

What we see in the first sign (miracle) of Jesus...

- **Jesus participated in everyday life among the people**

John 2:1 (ESV) ...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.

- ✓ The wedding was in Cana in Galilee (Mary, mother of Jesus, attended)
- ✓ Jesus and His disciples were invited and attended
 - o Yes...Jesus is in *heavy theological conversations, confrontations, miracles, and sermons/teachings* in the Gospels but **also participated in everyday life**
 - o Jesus wasn't off in His little corner judging everyone else for enjoying life – He was there with them (talking, laughing, celebrating)
 - **Betrothal (engaged):** a legally binding commitment, usually about a year
 - **Wedding Night:** a torchlit procession as the groom brings his bride home
 - **Whole Village Attends:** lamps, music, singing, and shouting
 - **Lasted up to Seven Days:** food, wine, joy, and celebration
 - **Big Celebration:** for a village like Cana (maybe 1,000 people)

▪ **The actions of Jesus were surrendered to the will of God the Father**

John 2:3 (ESV) 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.”

- ✓ The wine runs out during this celebration, which could bring shame on the hosts
 - o Mary brings this to the attention of Jesus (may indicate this was a close friend or family member that she didn’t want embarrassed)
 - o Mary probably wasn’t expecting a miracle (she hadn’t seen him do one up to this point)
- ✓ Jesus responds to His mother
 - o *Woman* – this is not a term of disrespect, but of tenderness and it’s the same word He would use when He addressed Mary at His crucifixion (John 19:26)
 - o *What does this have to do with me?*

“The thrust of Jesus’ comment was that he had entered into the purpose for his mission on earth, so that he subordinated all activities to the fulfillment of that mission. Mary had to recognize him not so much as a son whom she raised but as the promised Messiah and Son of God.” – John MacArthur
 - o *My hour has not yet come* – His *hour* points to the cross and resurrection

“Jesus seemed to say to Mary, ‘*I won’t do it. It’s not time*’ – but then He went on to do it. What He really said to Mary was, ‘We now have a different relationship. Let me consult My heavenly Father.’” – David Guzik
- ✓ *Do whatever he tells you* (Mary didn’t fully grasp His words, but trusted Him)

▪ **Jesus performed His first miracle, albeit mostly in private**

- ✓ Jesus told the servants to fill the six stone jars (holding 20–30 gallons each) with water and they did so

John 2:6 (ESV) 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.

 - o Stone jars were used for ceremonial washing because stone couldn’t become unclean
 - o Jesus didn’t just fix the issue but provided in abundance (120–180 gallons)
- ✓ Jesus told the servants to draw from the jars and take it to the overseer

John 2:8 (ESV) And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it.

The servants obeyed before they saw anything happen.

- ✓ The master of the feast was surprised when the wine tasted better than the wine served at the beginning of the celebration

John 2:9 (ESV) 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.”

 - o The guests enjoyed the wine, but only the servants knew where it came from
 - o Jesus took the vessels of the old ritual (stone jars) and filled them with something far better (1:17)

“God has kept the best gift (His Son) until now.” – BKC

- **Jesus revealed His glory through this miracle**

John 2:11 (ESV) This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. **12** After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

- ✓ John calls it a *sign* (a miracle that points beyond itself to who Jesus is)

“Moses turned water into blood, showing that the Law results in death (Ex. 7:17–21). But Jesus’ first miracle turned water into wine, showing the gladness and joy of His new work.” – David Guzik

- ✓ The sign *manifested His glory*

- ✓ His disciples believed in Him – the whole point of John’s Gospel (20:31)

APPLICATION (WHAT YOU NEED TO DO)

We also are called to see His glory and believe in Him.

The stone jars represented the old way: people trying to make themselves clean.

But Jesus filled them with something far better: Himself.

The sign of water into wine points to Jesus and the question to us is whether we’ll believe in Him.

We need to stop relying on our own religious efforts and trying to be good enough.

Instead, we are called to trust Jesus. He is all we need.