

Sermon Series: Book of John
'Manifestations of the Glory of Jesus Christ'

Sermon title: The Water into Wine

Scripture reading: John 2:1-12

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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We begin a new series today in the book of John. John is the fourth book of the New Testament and it is one of the eyewitness accounts of the things that Jesus Christ said and did. John is unlike the other three accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke. John gives no account of Jesus' birth, doesn't have any parables and leaves out a lot of Jesus' teachings that the others include.

But, John includes a lot that the others don't. John the disciple writes a beautiful account of the life of Christ. It is sometimes called the "Spiritual gospel" because of its content.

I hope that you will read the book of John this fall several times. In fact, I challenge you to read the book of John with me this fall.

What we are going to do this fall is take a look at:
8 signs and 7 "I Am" sayings that reveal Jesus' glory.
We want to plumb the depths of Christ.
We want to Behold his magnificence.
And we want to believe.

As we begin today, let's pray together and ask for God's help because as he says in **John 15:5**, "*Apart from me you can do nothing*".

Let's pray.

I have a question that I'd like to ask you.
If I asked you the most important verse in the book of John, what would you say?

John 3:16?- For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 10:10?- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

or maybe **John 14:6**?- I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Well, those are all beautiful verses but those aren't the most important verse in the book of John. The most important verse in John is the theme verse of VBS this past year.

John 20:31- These things 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.

John tells us clearly what his purpose is in writing. If we want to understand the book of John we must read it in light of 20:31. We will mention it a lot.

Let's take a look at the first sign that Jesus did that revealed his glory, the water being changed into wine.

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.

We must avoid trying to pick apart these verses and treat them as allegory or a parable. There is meaning in the details but we need to see the big idea and not try to get application from every detail.

What we are supposed to see is the glory of Jesus Christ.

I. BEHOLD

This is a miracle. Normal people...human beings...don't turn water into wine. People aren't able to do this. That's just the point! Jesus did something that is impossible. There's something different about him.

There is a wedding and the weddings in these days could last a week, like some cultures still do today. And the host, in this case the Bridegroom, has a responsibility to provide food and wine for the guests. It's obviously a shame culture where running out of food and wine would be a great embarrassment to the host.

Many of you understand that concept.

Mary, Jesus' mother, seems to have some role in helping at the wedding or at least connected to the family enough that she is very concerned about the host losing face. It's not because she is deeply thirsty!

It's likely a relative or close friend.

So the story gets interesting when she comes to Jesus, who has just taken up some disciples, to get him to fix the situation. Mary isn't necessarily turning to him for a miracle but she is turning to him to help, which as her oldest son and being a grown man ...and likely caring for Mary at this point....he would be her fix-it man.

Jesus' response to her is odd and the story shifts here for sure. He says to her in verse 4, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

For the record, him calling her 'Woman' is not that uncommon or strange and isn't as bad as it sounds in English. It's kind of like saying, "Madam."

But there is a slight rebuke in the tone. Jesus is beginning his public ministry and is 100% devoted to his Father's will and we get a glimpse of what that is.

He says, "My hour has not yet come."

When Jesus refers to 'his hour' in the Scripture it refers to his payment for sin on the cross. This is not the time for Jesus to reveal himself and accomplish his Father's plan, which is to die for sinners.

But Mary shows faith it seems in her statement by saying quite simply to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

So, even though Jesus' hour or time is not yet he is going to do something that gives us a taste of his kingdom and what it brings and means.

There are 6 stone water jars for Jewish purification rites, John tells us. These were for washing your hands and utensils and were part of the rules and laws for keeping

yourself right with God. John mentions this on purpose. And they are huge. 6 of them holding about 100 Liters each. Jesus tells the servants to “fill the jars with water”. So, they go to the well and likely pull up a bucket and pour them into the large jars until they’re ‘up to the brim’. We usually at this point picture the water in the 6 jars being turned into wine either before they scooped it out or as they go to scoop it out. But the text can be read (and probably should be) another way.

Jesus said to them, “Now DRAW some out and take it to the master of the feast.” This word ‘draw’ some out is only used in the Bible of drawing water from a well; only here and in John 4- the story of the woman at the well. It’s possible that what actually happens is that they have been drawing water from the well to fill the stone jars and once they fill them, Jesus says NOW...draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.

So that they actually go to the well and let the bucket down and when they pull it up...it is wine. And we don’t know anymore than that. Did they keep pulling up wine from the well or did the jars become wine, we don’t know.

We do know that nobody, including the master of ceremonies, knows where the wine comes from, except

the servants who had drawn the water knew (verse 9) and the disciples.

The response of the master of ceremonies gives us a clue into what is going on here.

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.

The master of the feast thinks the bridegroom has provided the wine, but it was actually THE Bridegroom who has done this.

Jesus manifests his glory by instantly turning water into wine and lots of wine....either 600 Liters of wine or an entire well of it, buckets and buckets of wine...and it is *good* wine. No abracadabra. No hocus-pocus. No recipe. No grapes provided, no yeast, no sugar. He instantly changed water into good wine...in abundance.

Even though this is not an allegory there is a lot of imagery here. A wedding. A bride & Bridegroom. Wine. A feast. Jewish laws for purifying. Filling to the brim.

New wine being provided and old 'stone' containers being set aside.

What does it all mean?

What are we to Behold here?

I. BEHOLD HIS GLORY.

That's what verse 11 tells us why Jesus turned the water into wine. **11** *This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory.*

What does THAT mean,....to manifest his glory?

It means to display his magnificence, splendor, grandeur, majesty, greatness, nobility; opulence, beauty, elegance.

John wants us to see what he saw.

Jesus Christ is God. Man can't turn water into wine.

Only God can do that.

John starts out his book with these words,

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made. (v.1-3)

He was in the world, and the world was made through him yet the world did not know him. (v. 10)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (v. 14)

I hope this grips us afresh and anew!

Jesus Christ was God walking around on planet earth in human skin! He gave visible signs to attest to his deity and glory by doing things like changing water into wine instantly.

We are to read this and Behold his glory and be in awe of him and it should move us and do something to us. It should cause us to do as his first disciples did when they saw it. He *'manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him.'*

II. BELIEVE

John mentions the word believe almost 100 times in the book. *These things are written that you may BELIEVE that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ and what the Bible says about him...about who he is and what he has done?

You see, this first sign is a picture.

The Bridegroom has arrived.

He will freely provide abundant life and joy for those who believe. He will give his life and shed his blood on the cross...giving them access to God and eternal life.

The water jars symbolize religion and you can't wash yourself enough to make yourself clean before God. And religion won't satisfy.

We need something more, something better.

New wine. Good wine.

Do you believe in Jesus? Notice that I am not asking you if you have believed!

I am asking you if you believe today!

Beholding Jesus in all his glory should cause us to Believe. And Believing should cause us to Obey.

III. OBEY

After Jesus told his mother that his hour has not yet come, what was her response? Simple faith. Belief. She said to the servants, **"Do whatever he tells you."**

That takes belief to do that. You can't carry a bucket that you just drew from a well of water or a stone water jar to the master of the feast very easily. Did you notice that?

"Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast. So they took it."

"Do whatever he tells you."

You know why we struggle with obedience?

Because we don't believe.

You know why we don't believe?

We are not **BEHOLDING his glory.**

John 20:31- These things 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.