

"A Sign of Our Savior's Glory" John 2:1-11 Epiphany 2 2024

Today through the Word of God before us we will be led to see our Savior's glory through the miracle he performed. May the Holy Spirit take us back to a wedding in Cana and to the miraculous sign that Jesus gave as a witness to his glory. Our time in the Scriptures will strengthen our faith in Jesus as our Savior as we see a sign of his glory.

Now, while we don't even know the names of the bride and groom, the wedding at Cana is probably the most talked about wedding in history. Of course, it isn't the wedding that has made the event so famous. It is the special guest who was invited. John tells us, "On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus's mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well." This wedding took place three days after Jesus had said, "follow me," to a man named Philip. (Remember, in John 1 we hear about Jesus calling his first disciples.) It was also three days after Jesus had wowed Nathanael into becoming a disciple as well. So, with at least five disciples Jesus went to a wedding to which they all had been invited.

We don't know if it was just a result of poor planning, or if it was caused by the addition of many unexpected guests. But a crisis developed at the wedding. John tells us, "When the wine ran out..." Just a short time into their married life the conditions were perfect for that couple to have their first fight as husband and wife. They were facing a

"A Sign of Our Savior's Glory" John 2:1-11 Epiphany 2 2024

socially unacceptable situation. They had run out of wine at their wedding reception.

Sensitive to the situation Mary tried to help. She informed her son. She said to him, "They don't have any wine." At first it seemed as though Jesus didn't want to get involved with the situation. "What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." Although Jesus was respectful of his mother, he made it clear that his life was now being guided by his mission as the Messiah. But Mary obviously still hoped that Jesus would help. John goes on to tell us, "His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Even before we look at Jesus' power to change water into wine we can see his glory in his decision to help these newlyweds. Through this miracle we see that Jesus is concerned about individuals and even the little problems they may face in life. In fact, think of how many of Jesus' miracles were directed to individuals. Each person who came to Jesus and experienced one of his miracles was facing a personal problem or challenge. There was that woman with internal hemorrhaging that reached out and touched Jesus' clothing. In compassion Jesus addressed her painful, personal, problem. Remember how Jesus brought back to life the daughter of a grieving father and the son of a

"A Sign of Our Savior's Glory" John 2:1-11 Epiphany 2 2024

grieving mother. The Scriptures record how Jesus entered their shattered lives and brought hope and healing. Two sisters witnessed their brother brought back to life by Jesus. A whole chapter of John's Gospel is dedicated to Jesus' personal care for each sister in her grief. Although Jesus fed thousands and healed crowds of people most of the miracles recorded in the Scriptures describe his interaction with one an individual at a time. Those miracles show us Jesus' deep interest in the personal lives of people.

So, as we go to Cana's wedding feast and see Jesus' concern for a bride and groom caught in an embarrassing situation, we are reminded of his concern for each of us. We can be assured that Jesus cares about everything in our lives. From the big things to the little things, from the happy events to the things that make us sad, in our smiles and in our tears, nothing goes unnoticed by Jesus. And nothing in our lives is unimportant to him. When you have embarrassed yourself because of something you have said or done it may seem like no one cares. But Jesus does. Do you have a fear that others might consider silly? Jesus doesn't think it is silly. Perhaps you long for something that most people would consider trivial. Jesus is interested in those things too. He knows the desires of your heart.

"A Sign of Our Savior's Glory" John 2:1-11 Epiphany 2 2024

Certainly, the miracle at Cana reveals Jesus' glory to us. But even the reason for the miracle points us to his glory. He was concerned about a couple of newlyweds who ran out of wine at their wedding reception. That too shows us Jesus' glory. He is concerned about people. He is concerned about all the things in your life. May you see that sign of your Savior's glory. In the miraculous sign of turning water into wine see a sign of his concern for you.

Jesus' revealed his glory in this miracle by revealing his power. Only the almighty Son of God could defy the laws of nature and change one substance into another. This demonstration of his power helped define his glory. In the first chapter of his Gospel John declared this about Jesus' glory, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

In addition to revealing his power the details of this miracle also added to Jesus' glory. Yes, turning water into wine was amazing. But Jesus also met the needs of the bride and groom at Cana with more than they needed. Jesus turned the contents of six stone water jars to between 120 and 130 gallons of premium wine (in our way of measuring that's between 575-625 bottles of wine). This was way more than they needed for the wedding. But isn't that just like our Savior,

"A Sign of Our Savior's Glory" John 2:1-11 Epiphany 2 2024

Jesus? He wants to meet our needs above and beyond what we might think is enough. At the wedding at Cana Jesus showed his glory through his concern and his power to help. But he also showed his glory through the extraordinary and extravagant way he helped.

Isn't it amazing how this miracle done by Jesus centuries ago still applies to our lives today? Jesus still wields the same power that he used to turn water into wine! He is still concerned about the big and small things in our lives. And he promises to use his power to help us. 1 Peter 5:7 reminds us, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." And Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." From socially embarrassing moments to life and death situations we are encouraged to turn to our all-powerful Savior for help. He is deeply concerned about each of us, and he has unlimited power to help us. In fact, he wants to meet all our needs beyond our expectations. Yes, once again, I invite you see a sign of your Savior's glory. In this miracle see a sign of his power to help you.

Although the miracle at Cana is a sign of our Savior's glory because it shows us his concern for us and his power to help us there is more to it than that. Ultimately the most important part of the miracle is the effect it had on the disciples. John summarized it by saying, "Jesus

"A Sign of Our Savior's Glory" John 2:1-11 Epiphany 2 2024

did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him." By turning those jars of water into jars of wine Jesus proved that he was the Messiah. That sign confirmed for the disciples that they should believe what Jesus had been claiming. With his identity as the Christ confirmed by a miraculous sign, the disciples put their faith in him.

So, what purpose do Jesus' miracles serve in our lives? We personally haven't witnessed them. Now I am not saying that we haven't experienced miracles. Certainly, our Savior is still doing miracles in the lives of believers. But we can only read John's account of Jesus changing water into wine. We weren't there to witness it. And even though there are a couple dozen of Jesus' miracles recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke we can't see any of them with our own eyes. Thankfully the Holy Spirit can use the written record of Jesus' miraculous signs to confirm our faith in him. Whenever we study a miracle like the one Jesus did at Cana our faith is strengthened. We are brought to believe with greater conviction that we can trust in Jesus. He is the promised Savior who has died for our sins and has been raised from the dead to live and reign for us. May all of Jesus miracles confirm the fact that our faith in Jesus is well founded!

"A Sign of Our Savior's Glory" John 2:1-11 Epiphany 2 2024

With John giving us his eyewitness account of Jesus' first miraculous sign may we too see it as a sign of Jesus' glory. It is a sign of his concern for people in the big things and the small things of life. It is a sign of his almighty power to help us. Nothing is beyond his ability or resources. And Jesus' miracle is also a sign for us to put our faith in him. Again and again, as we open the Scriptures and witness Jesus' miracles may they show us his glory. May we see these signs and believe what they say about Jesus. Amen.