

# The Wedding at Cana

4th - 6th Grade Lesson 7

## The First Miracle of Christ

Jesus performed many miracles when He was on earth. He healed many sick people. He made people see who were blind. We have already learned about when Jesus was baptized. We have learned about John the Baptist. We read about when Jesus was tempted by the devil. In this lesson, we are going to learn the story about Jesus performing His first miracle. He did this miracle at a wedding in the presence of many people.

### The Marriage in Cana

A few miles from where Jesus lived was a city called Cana. Jesus' family and His disciples were all invited to a wedding in the city of Cana. A wedding is a very special event. It is the beginning of two people living together as a married couple.

Some people think that pastors should not get married because Jesus wasn't married. But, if Jesus had been against marriage, He wouldn't have gone to the wedding in Cana. Marriage was made by God.

### The Missing Ingredient

Mary, Jesus' mother, heard some people talking at the wedding. They had run out of wine for everyone at the wedding party.

Sometimes a word can have several different meanings. Before we tell more of the story about the miracle Jesus did, we need to define the word *wine* in this Bible passage.

The Bible talks about two kinds of wine. First, there is "new wine." "New wine" is grape juice. God's Word tells us that new wine is a good thing! Proverbs says that when you give to God, one of the things He will do for you is give you "new wine."

*Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

—Proverbs 3:9, 10

Secondly, the word *wine* in the Bible also refers to grape juice that is fermented. Once grape juice is fermented, God does not want us to touch that kind of wine. That kind of wine is alcoholic and can make people drunk. The book of Proverbs in the Bible has much to say about people who drink alcoholic wine. The Bible calls it "strong drink." The book of Habakkuk says that we should not give someone a drink that will make him drunk.

*Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken.*

—Habakkuk 2:15

Since we know that the Bible repeatedly speaks against strong drink, we know that the wine at this wedding at Cana had to be new wine (grape juice) and not alcoholic drink.

### **The Mother's Instructions**

Some religions worship Mary. They should not do this. Mary was a human like you. She was special because she was Jesus' mother. But she was not God, and she was not like God. Mary says in Luke 1:26-27, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46, 47). Mary was not saying she was like God. She was saying that God was her Savior.

The last time the Bible records what Mary says is at the wedding in Cana. She told the people at the wedding that they needed to obey Jesus.

*His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*

—John 2:5

### **The Manifested Glory**

Do you wonder what the servants were thinking when Jesus told them to fill the pots with water? They had to fill 6 pots with water. They probably had to carry about 162 gallons of water. That is like carrying 162 gallons of milk! Remember that they could not just turn on the faucet to get water. They had to dip and then carry all of that water from a well or a spring. It probably took them a long time. It was probably very hard. But they did it anyway. They were obedient to Jesus. They filled all of the pots to the brim.

Not only did they have to carry the water from a well or spring, but it is likely that the water was not very clean. In Bible times, water had to be purified or cleaned before people could drink it. When we get water from our sinks, it has already gone through a filter to get rid of anything in it that is not clean. Back then, the servants would have gotten in trouble for serving water that was not clean. But they obeyed Jesus and did just what He said.

*Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.*

—John 2: 10

The servants at the wedding had a problem. But Jesus had a way to fix it! Jesus turned all of that unclean water into "new wine." Jesus performed His first miracle at the wedding in Cana, and all of the people were amazed!

### **Conclusion**

The servants at the wedding in Cana obeyed Jesus, and they got to see an amazing miracle. We need to obey Jesus too! We also need to obey our parents, teachers, and pastor. The Bible says that obedience is very important. As the song tells us, "Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe."