

## The Four Gospels of the Bible, First Miracle in Canaan

### John 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup> On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there...When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." (NIV)

*Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine." Jesus said, "Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me."*

*She went ahead anyway, telling the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it." Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim.*

*"Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host," Jesus said, and they did. When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!"*

*This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him.*

*After this he went down to Capernaum along with his mother, brothers, and disciples, and stayed several days. (The Message)*

### Why whine over wine?

Well, I'm not sure why Jesus' first recorded miracle involved wine; but given the event, the subject of wine would not have been unusual...as a main course of weddings and of meals in *that day*. According to Bible sources, a wedding could last up to a week! In a week's worth of festivity, the wine was a reflection of the host (or family of the wedding); poor or insufficient wine meant public embarrassment for the family and, perhaps, a bad way to start the marriage...

### Your business or mine...?

Mary and Jesus (and his disciples) were guest of the wedding – not family; also possible in this question is the knowledge that Jesus had not yet exhibited the Father's power through miracles. Was this right time (to reveal the power...); was the business of Jesus?

### Whatever He tells you to do...

Mary was direct; "whatever He (Jesus) tells you to do, do it!). Did she know that Jesus would perform a miracle; that he would produce wine rather than obtain it from other sources? I believe that she did know – of his supernatural power to do such things...

H. Kirk Rainer

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### **Why a Wedding?**

A wedding is a beautiful ceremony, sacrament and event; a time when a man and woman commit themselves to each other – before God and man... Jesus described the desired relationship between himself and the church as liken to a groom and bride. The groom is to sacrificially love his bride, and the bride is to respect and honor the groom. Can you think of a better forum to conduct a miracle? Why, a wedding (and marriage) is the reflection of God's order; it is a miracle!

### **The best for last**

That the wine was the best of all is very important; not only the production of wine from water, but the spontaneous over the natural aging of wine. Maybe there's more to this miracle than the creation of wine and the formation of a marriage; still, the best is yet to come...

H. Kirk Rainer