

The title for today's message is: **Water Becomes Wine, Really?**

Our text says: Jesus had the servants fill jars with water which turned into wine.

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

I would like to begin with a question. Does Jesus' miracle of changing water into wine matter when compared to other miracles of Jesus?

Name three miracles of Jesus that were the most powerful and beneficial of all the miracles he performed. Let see, how about; His resurrection.

The raising of Lazarus from the dead. Calming the wind and the waves to save His disciples from drowning.

Those are the three miracles I certainly believe to be the most powerful and beneficial.

Look Jesus' very first miracle on the other hand, the changing of water into wine, seems to be nothing more than a warm-up act of a magician, right?

Yet, changing water into wine isn't something you or I could do, it did save a bride and groom some embarrassment, but so what? Does this miracle really matter?

No one was raised from the dead. No one was healed from a disease, and no demons were driven out.

Instead a wedding party's thirst was quenched, so what? that was all, or was it?

My friends the miracle of changing water into wine does matter, it carries the same weight as any of the other miracles Jesus preformed.

You see it taught those at the wedding feast and you and I today what should matter most to us.

First of all, this miracle occurred at a wedding in the small town of Cana not too far away from Jesus' childhood home of Nazareth.

Where Jesus and his disciples, who numbered only five or six at this time were invited to attend.

Would you have invited Jesus to your wedding? Perhaps you did. He was there in the Word that was preached at your wedding ceremony.

But what about afterwards? Did you invite Him and His disciples to the reception? Again perhaps you did.

Or you may have invoked His name in the prayer before the meal, but were you glad to finally get that done so you could cut lose.

That is, if you think inviting Jesus to your gatherings will turn them into gloomy events.

But we should think again, because the fact is it was Jesus who kept the party going at the wedding in Cana.

Jewish wedding celebrations in the 1st century often lasted as long as seven days.

So if you didn't plan carefully, you were bound to run out of something. That's just what happened in Cana.

They ran out of wine. Mary was made aware of this and so she goes to Jesus and said: "They have no more wine".

Now, from Jesus' response we know that Mary was doing more than simply reporting facts. No! Mary wanted Jesus to help.

Jesus, however, replied: "*Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come*". Does that sound like the Jesus you and I know?

Not really. It sounds more like an uppity kid who has come back from college and thinks he's too cool for Mom.

Jesus, of course, had not just come back from college but He had recently been baptized.

Where, God the Father identified Jesus as His Son, while the Holy Spirit descended upon Him signaling the beginning of His public work as Savior.

In other words Jesus was no longer Mary's little errand boy who would run off to the local grocer from some milk when needed;

He was the savior of the world, and as savior, Jesus had come to serve, but that doesn't mean that Mary, or we, should treat Him as our servant.

But Mary didn't turn away in a huff, but instead faced the servants standing nearby and said, *"Do whatever he tells you"*.

What a wonderful and strong faith Mary demonstrates! She realized that Jesus' rebuke didn't mean, "No, I will not help."

Instead she trusted that Jesus, who had made time to be at a wedding in an insignificant small town, loved the bride and groom and cared about their wedding.

So Mary knew that Jesus would do whatever is best to help. Do whatever is best, Jesus.

Don't we wish our prayers were more often like that! Instead what do we think and say when asking Jesus for something.

We give our Lord detailed instructions including a timetable for how to answer our prayers as if we know what is best.

Yes, God wants us to pray specifically and boldly but He doesn't want us to forget our place, or His.

We are nothing but dust, sinfully dirty dust at that.

He, on the other hand, is the all-wise and all-knowing God. Indeed, even before Mary told him, Jesus knew that there was no more wine.

If it really had been a pressing problem, Jesus would have taken care of the need before Mary was even aware of the shortage.

Instead Jesus thought it better that there be a crisis before He acted. Look, God is still in the habit of emptying us before He fills us.

He does this so that we will turn to Him more often and more completely for the help we need because Jesus always does what is eternally best for us.

So what did Jesus do about the wine shortage? He told the attendants to fill up six stone water jars that held between 20-30 gallons each.

They did and then He instructed them to take that water and give it to the master of ceremony for tasting.

Wouldn't you love to have been able to see what was going through the servants' minds as they hauled the water to the MC?

If they had witnessed the exchange between Mary and Jesus, they probably thought this was some kind of tasteless joke.

They must have thought Jesus obviously didn't care about fixing the problem.

If He did, He would not have made them walk to the well and back to fill six huge jars with water but would have simply filled the jars with wine instead.

Don't we often think the same about Jesus? We look at all the suffering and pain in the world and imagine Jesus could care less because He doesn't seem to be doing anything about it.

But He is doing something about it just as He was doing something about the wine shortage in Cana.

When the MC tasted the water that had been turned into wine he called the groom over to commend him for the quality of the wine being served.

Now, if my math is correct, Jesus supplied the equivalent of 960 bottles of wine for the banquet!

To put this in perspective, if the bride and groom didn't want to serve any of the wine Jesus provided at the banquet.

They would have been able to enjoy one bottle of premium wine a day for the next two and a half years of their life.

So, did the miracle of water turning into wine matter? Well, it certainly mattered to the bride and groom.

Jesus took care of them in their time of need and he did so with abundant quality.

This miracle also mattered to Jesus' disciples, John said: "This, the first of His miraculous signs that, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee.

He therefore revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him" because they now had tangible proof that Jesus was the Son of God.

The Son of God who provides what we need at the proper time, even giving us something as insignificant as a glass of wine.

But what we really need from Jesus is forgiveness for treating Him as our servant and for accusing Him of not caring about us.

Yes, we all need forgiveness for not inviting Him to our parties because we wanted to give free reign to our sinful nature.

The same Jesus who turned water into wine is the Jesus who now turns wine into a sin-cleansing blood.

He does that in Holy Communion where He gives us His blood in the wine that we drink. cleansing us from the inside out.

No, it might not be the most spectacular miracle in the Bible but the miracle at the wedding in Cana matters.

It teaches what should matter most to us is a humble faith that trusts that the Son of God is in our midst and will act for our best.

Jesus may never give us 960 bottles of premium wine but through His death and resurrection He has given us something even better.

He has given us a place at the eternal banquet in heaven. No, you're not seated at that banquet yet.

You may have to endure some lean and trying days now but cling to Jesus through the thick and thin, as Mary did. You won't be disappointed.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship