

Water Turned to Wine – The Power Over Quality

John 2:1-11

Introduction

1. John explains the purpose of his gospel record, and the miracles recorded in it – **John 20:30-31** – ultimately manifest that Jesus is the Son of God that we may believe and have life.
2. However, in each miracle there are many things to observe which all serve the ultimate purpose of revealing Jesus' true nature, and thus the ability to give life.
 - a. They teach us something of the nature of His power, and the characteristics of it.
 - b. They tell us of His character, and His relation to us.
 - c. They tell us of His desires for us, and His ability to bring us to that end.
 - d. The miracles confirm what Jesus reveals about Himself, but truly are themselves a revelation of Jesus.
3. **John 2:1-11** records the first of Jesus' miracles in His ministry, and the first of 7 in John's record. It manifests His glory as the only begotten of the Father, a glory which is multifaceted, and blesses us as we meditate on it.
4. When Jesus turned the water to wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, among several implications He demonstrated He has the power over quality. What does this mean for us?
 - I. The Miracle
 - A. The Problem **(v. 3)**
 - a. The first miracle lays a foundation for what will be noticed in the rest – **the change Jesus effected by miraculous power was not minimal, but dramatic, unnatural, and unimaginable.**
 - b. They did not have little wine, or merely wine they wished was better – one might reason that what wine they had **"well drunk" (v. 10)** would have been the best they had to offer.
 - c. **They had no wine at all.**
 - B. The Solution **(vv. 6-9a)**
 - a. **Notice the absence – "And you drank wine, the blood of the grapes" (Deuteronomy 32:14).**
 - i. Wine was a natural product of water which flowed through the vine and the grape.
 1. **"the new wine is found in the cluster" (Isaiah 65:8).**
 - ii. He did not say get the grapes, go to the vine, cultivate the soil, wait for the rain. (The normal process – **Isaiah 5:1-2**)
 - b. **Notice Jesus' involvement – (vv. 5, 7, 8) – "Whatever He says," "Jesus said," "And He said."** – it was by His words/commands, that Jesus brought a solution.
 - c. **(vv. 6-9a)** – the only solution to the problem discovered in any of the texts is the word of the Lord.
 - i. Stone pots filled to the brim with what Jesus command – water.

- ii. **“Draw some out now”** – what? – water was in there as far as anyone knew.
 - iii. What did the master of the feast taste – **“water become wine” (YLT)**
 - iv. **Through the Word all things were created – John 1:1, 3 – and through His word the wine was created.**
- C. The Wonder **(vv. 9b-11)**
- a. It is interesting that the **“master of the feast”** was made to wonder about the wine, though he knew nothing of the miracle at the time – **(v. 9b)**
 - i. His was not a wonderment at the presence of wine at the feast after it had run out.
 - ii. Mary’s concern and action was with intention to avoid that fact from ever coming to light – **(vv. 3-5)**
 - b. **(vv. 9-10)** – His reaction answered to the obvious contrast between the two qualities of wine at the feast.
 - i. **Jesus’ miraculously supplied wine was of superior quality, showing Him to have power over quality.**
 - ii. **(v. 10)** – Also, as delighted with wonderment he was at the taste of the wine, he could not help but note the break with tradition, yet not with regret or frustration, but delight.
 - c. **(v. 11)** – those who did **“know where it came from” (v. 9)** were struck with the awe and wonder of beholding **“the glory as of the only begotten of the Father” (John 1:14).**
- II. Jesus is the Lord of Quality
- A. The Lord of Creation is the Lord of Quality
 - a. Jesus is Creator, and therefore the Lord of the earth, and all that is good – **Hebrews 1:2-3; Genesis 1:31** (answers to quality – just right according to design of infinite wisdom); **Psalms 24:1-2; 50:12; 1 Timothy 4:4-5**
 - b. With this miracle He identifies Himself with the Father of light – **James 1:17** (cf. **Acts 14:17**, to idolaters in Lystra – a testimony of His goodness.) – Jesus is connected with everything that is good in this life as Creator and Sustainer (cf. **Colossians 1:17**).
 - i. **Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:13** – fruit of labor.
 - ii. **Ecclesiastes 4:9** – companionship, friendship, etc. (cf. **Genesis 2:18**).
 - iii. **Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; 8:15** – the days of life, the wealth in it, the joy in it.
 - iv. **Ecclesiastes 11:7** – even the sunlight.
 - c. “Have you ever stood at the ocean with the white foam at your feet; felt the endless thundering motion? Then I say you’ve seen Jesus my Lord. Have you ever stood at the sunset with the sky mellowing red; Seen the cloud suspended like feathers? Then I say you’ve seen Jesus my Lord....Have you seen Jesus my Lord? He’s here in plain view. Take a look, open your eyes, He’ll show it to you.” (Have You Seen Jesus My Lord)

- B. The Lord's Word Produces what is Superior
- a. In the first miracle, the Lord of the vine spoke with creative power and produced fruit of the vine without the vine that was superior in quality.
 - i. The connection between the Word of Jesus and superior quality is unmistakable
 - ii. The Word produces only the best.
 - b. Rich young ruler and Jesus' response – **Matthew 19:16-17**
 - i. **"Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?...'Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good'" (NASB)**
 1. Matthew's text differs – **Mark 10:17-18; Luke 18:18-19** – Jesus is called **"Good Teacher"**
 - ii. Jesus points him to what he already knows is good – the word of God – **"keep the commandments"**
 - iii. **Mark 10:17-18** – Jesus is not denying that He is good but is responding to the level of this man's understanding – Jesus is no mere teacher – the description is accurate, but this man doesn't know why.
 1. **(vv. 20-22)** – Jesus called him to make a great sacrifice and follow Him in a life of sacrifice.
 2. **"he was sad at this word"** – little did he know, though much evidence pointed to it, that committing to that word would bring a quality of life far superior to his life of riches.
 3. **Jesus' word takes us in the best direction always.**
 - c. Jehovah's identification, and the promise to keep covenant – **Exodus 3:14-15, 17; John 8:58** (Jesus and Jehovah are One)
 - i. **"a land flowing with milk and honey"** – of the best quality.
 - ii. **Exodus 19:3-6** – they would be a people of superior quality in all the earth – IF THEY OBEYED GOD AND KEPT HIS COVENANT.
 - iii. There was never a nation on the earth as exceptional as Israel, and this was due to the QUALITY PRODUCED BY GOD'S WORD. (When they rebelled, all went to corruption and decay.)
 - d. He shows us what is good in His word – **Micah 6:8** – this is not merely the way we ought to go because the Lord says, but IT IS THE SUPERIOR WAY IN ALL RESPECTS.
 - i. **The way of the Lord is quality of life.**
 - e. Christ's word is not burdensome, but profitable – **1 John 5:3; 1 Timothy 4:8**
 - i. John reflected on this – **John 1:14, 16** – commitment to the Word is to experience **"grace upon grace."**
 - f. A life devoted to Christ's word produces thanksgiving because it is life of quality – **Colossians 3:17** – in all areas.
- III. Jesus Keeps the Best for Later

- A. The World Sets Out the Best at First Without Mention of the Undesirable that Follows
- a. What the master of the feast was accustomed to – **John 2:10** – the best comes first, and then all that is left is inferior.
 - b. There is a deceitfulness of sin which promises fulfillment, and delight, but has a bitter end of pain and regret – **Hebrews 3:12-13; 12:16-17; Mark 8:36-37**
 - c. Pleasure is replaced with guilt – **Psalm 32:3-4**
 - d. The temporary pleasure fades into a hard life – **Proverbs 13:15**
 - i. Alcohol – **Proverbs 23:29-32**
 - ii. Sexual Immorality – **Proverbs 5:1-5**
 - iii. Dishonest work – **Proverbs 11:18-19; 20:17**
 - e. It runs out – **Luke 15:13-16; Hebrews 11:25** (passing pleasures of sin); **1 John 2:15-17** – even the lusts of it will pass away.
- B. Jesus Calls Us to Endure the Bitter with the Joyful Anticipation of the Better
- a. Jesus' first miracle was a microcosm of His mission – **Philippians 2:5-11** – His is an example we are to follow to the same end.
 - i. Just as the superior wine followed after the inferior, the crown came after the cross.
 - b. Resisting the devil is difficult, requiring sacrifice, and the humility to realize shortcoming and dependence on God – **James 4:7-10** – but God will lift us up.
 - i. The world will think it strange and malign us, seeking to make our lives difficult – **1 Peter 4:3-6** – but for this reason we had the gospel preached to us so that we have hope.
 - ii. Where lusts of the world fade, the glories of being God's child last forever – **1 John 2:15-17; 3:1-3**
 - c. The joy of the Christian life is in spite of the pain, not in the absence of it, because of the hope that lies within that life of sacrifice – **Philippians 3:7-11** – fellowship of suffering, attain to resurrection.
 - i. There is a trial we must pass through to get to the end of our faith – **1 Peter 1:6-9**
 - ii. The suffering for faith we experience as the devil seeks to devour us will result in our readiness by God's grace for heaven – **1 Peter 5:8-11**
 - iii. In this inferior, visible body we are being prepared for an eternal weight of glory – **2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 8:17-18**

Conclusion

1. In Jesus' first miracle recorded by John we discover that He is the Lord of quality.
2. If we desire lives of blessing and enjoyment, we can find nothing better than a life devoted to Christ's will.
3. However, when that life brings with it various challenges as our faith in Him is tested, we must remember that the Lord of quality saves the best for last, and we must endure the difficulties that we may enjoy the blessings of Christ's reward forever.