

Seven Miraculous Signs of Jesus

John 2:1-11,

Water into Wine

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Miraculous Signs - introduction

1. The seven miraculous signs are designed to point away from themselves to Jesus Christ

There are dozens of signs pointing to the City of New York, from whatever direction you are travelling.

But no-one camps besides any one of them to gaze at its beauty! A sign is a self-efacing nothing whose single task is to point to someone or somewhere else: in the case of “New York” signs, to the great American city called New York.

In a similar way, the apostle John, when he wrote down his account of the life of Jesus, picked out seven miracles Jesus had performed during his ministry and called them “miraculous signs.” All of them are designed to point away from themselves, to Jesus:

“Don’t camp beside these signs, don’t marvel at them, instead gaze at the glory of the Person who performed them.”

At the end of the first miraculous sign, John writes:

“This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory.....”

Over the next few months, as we, God-willing, explore the seven miraculous signs John recorded...

1. Jesus turns water into wine
2. Jesus heals the son of an official
3. Jesus cures a crippled man
4. Jesus feeds 5000 people
5. Jesus walks on water
6. Jesus heals a blind man
7. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

...we must beyond the signs to the One they point to.

There’s a second thing about these signs we must mention as we begin this new series of sermons...

2. The miraculous signs tell us what Jesus is like

...when John says that the signs “reveal the glory of Jesus” what does that mean? “Reveal his glory?” “Glory” simply means “reveals what he is like.”

When Andrew Wiles solved a 357-year old maths problem called Fermat's last Theorem in 1994, it revealed something about him; in this case his mathematical ingenuity.

When Jesus performed these seven signs he revealed what he was like. The all-too-common danger with the miraculous signs is that we can focus on just one thing that these miracles demonstrated, and that is “Jesus must be God!” - and for sure that is one recurring revelation, but these miracles show us other wonderful things about Jesus!

For example in today's miracle, turning water into wine, Jesus shows how compassionate he is to people who find themselves in a big mess. Someone at this wedding made a big miscalculation about the wine requirement, but Jesus goes out of his way to cover their mistake, to hide their shame.

These miracles reveal many things about Jesus, for our blessing in 2026, because, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

One more thing to say about these signs...

3. The miraculous signs are designed to encourage faith in Jesus

*“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written **so that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (20:30-31)*

If you do not yet have faith in Jesus Christ, these seven miracles have been gathered together especially for you: to convince you that he is the Messiah promised of the Old Testament, the divine Son of God. And look at the benefits of faith in him, “you will have life in his name.” If you simply believe in Jesus Christ you will be given new life in this world and eternal life in the world to come!

For you and I who are already believers, these seven miraculous signs are designed to increase our faith. At the end of the first miraculous sign, John writes, “*his disciples put their faith in him.*” Hang on John, the disciples already believed in Jesus didn't they? Yes they did! But when they heard about this miracle their faith in him increased!

The first Miraculous Sign

John chapter 2, the first miraculous sign. Imagine a village wedding in full swing. Weddings might last for a week and Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary are all there. Blessed are the couple who

invite Jesus to their wedding, and happy the marriage who acknowledged the presence of Jesus as they pray together. A chord of three strands is not easily broken.

But some days into the wedding, disaster struck, the wine ran out! The bridegroom was ultimately responsible for organisation. What's gone wrong? Has the bridegroom got his sums wrong? Or was the family poor and did not have the resources for the numbers who showed up?

We're not told, but we do know that if something was not done soon, the family would be put to shame in the eyes of the whole community for years to come.

"Do you recall the wedding at Cana a few years ago?" "I do—the wine ran out before the end!?"
What shame, what humiliation!

Somehow Mary is deeply involved in the wedding arrangements and so she comes up to Jesus and says "They have no wine" by which she means, "What are you going to do about it?"

Mary had treasured the words she heard from the shepherds and angels in her heart, "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord." She remembers her 12 year old son saying "I have to be in my Father's house" and she has seen the sinless life her son has lived in her own home, from babyhood to childhood to adulthood as a carpenter.

She knows what he can do, and perhaps she thinks she needs to give him a prod, now that he is 30 years old. "They have no wine Jesus, now's the time to act." Many a wise mother has felt it necessary to give her son or daughter a loving prod!

In this case, both Mary and Jesus experience a pain in their hearts. *"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."*

Jesus must now distance himself from the mother he loved and let her know that the commands of his Father in heaven now take priority over the demands of his earthly mother. So he calls her "woman" which is not disrespectful but it is much more formal than "mother." That must have been difficult for Jesus to do.

And pain in Mary's heart as she realises a new milestone has been reached in her relationship with Jesus, she can't expect to direct or order her son around anymore.

Mary's faith in Jesus is undimmed by his mild rebuke, *"His mother said to the servants, Do whatever he tells you."*

It turns out that just moments after Mary spoke, it was indeed the Father's will for Jesus to perform his first miracle: Let's watch what Jesus does in obedience, now to his heavenly Father's will: He orders the servants to fill six stone water jars with water. That was easy part, though it would have taken some time because we're talking around 700 litres of water. The next command was far more

difficult: *“Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”* “What take water to the master of the banquet? He’ll laugh at us: “Why are you bringing water to me?”

Brothers and sisters, when Jesus asks us to do something difficult, we must obey! Perhaps there is someone here; you know Jesus is saying to you “get baptised” but you fear that command. You & I will never experience God’s blessing until we get off the fence and obey him!

These servants obeyed and look at the blessing:

“They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink (in other words when their taste buds were desensitised by alcohol!); but you have saved the best till now.”

We must not camp beside the sign but ask what does this sign teach us about Jesus?

(1) Jesus is God

Every single day that passes, in vineyards across the world, water is turning into wine! But normally it takes, vines, grapes, sunlight, workers, machines and time—lots of time in the case of fine wine—to ferment and mature the drink. Jesus bypassed all these natural processes and in an instant produced wine of such quality that it stunned the master of ceremonies! No tricks, no chemical additives, no slight of hand, just a thought from Jesus. He must be God! What is Jesus like? He is all-powerful! He is the divine Son of God.

(2) Jesus is compassionate

But secondly, this sign reveals the compassion of Jesus. This miracle was done in complete secret, only the servants and Mary and Jesus and the disciples knew what had happened. (v.9) Most of Jesus’ miracles were done in the full glare of public view, but not this one. Why? Because Jesus didn’t want to broadcast the miscalculation or the poverty of this little family. He wanted to protect them, to hide their shame.

Isn’t that what Jesus has done for us through the cross? “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.” (Isaiah 43) “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. (Psalm 32)

Remember how Jesus treated Peter after Peter had denied him three times? He asked him three times “Do you love me”? None of the other disciples knew what was going on, but Peter knew Jesus was gently restoring him: three denials, three questions.

Whatever mistakes you and I may have made in our lives, decades ago, weeks ago, days ago, Jesus is not in the business of exposing our folly and sin, his love keeps no record of wrongs. Does

someone here need to hear that? Satan whispers past blunders or regret into your ear? Cling to the promise: "If we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" And what does Peter say in 1 Peter 4:8 to us: we are not to bring up one another's sins: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins"

(3) Jesus is super-generous

700 litres of premium wine, over 900 bottles, worth at the very least £10,000 in today's money, probably much much more! How does Jesus give to his children? Liberally, lavishly, generously! God's super-generosity began when he gave his one and only beloved Son for our sins on the cross, a gift Paul calls "God's indescribable gift." And that gift signals the character of all of God's other giving: *"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" (8)*

What do you and I lack? Is it wisdom? Spiritual growth in some area of life? Usefulness in God's kingdom? Fruitfulness in ministry? A spiritual gift? One particular fruit of the Spirit? Is it a material need? Let us learn to pray big petitions, knowing that Jesus is *"able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."* (Ephesians 3:20)

May the Holy Spirit, through this miraculous sign, build our faith in Jesus Christ, the compassionate, generous, divine Son of God.

Amen.