

Here's Your Sign! *"Miraculous" series- Part 01*

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: What is that one thing in your life, that you or others might describe as a flaw or weakness, yet, you are happy to possess it and would not do without it?

Let's get on the same page –

My (Pastor Danny) parents married when they were very young (16 and 20 years old) and they had nothing in the way of possessions. My Dad placed a paper cigar wrapper on my mother's finger on their wedding day until he could afford a \$10 wedding band several weeks later.

Getting married on a limited budget is not easy, and it may not have been easy for some of you. Neither does it seem to have been easy for an unnamed couple whose wedding Jesus, His mother, and His disciples attended in Cana of Galilee. The story of the wedding at Cana of Galilee is found only in John's Gospel. It is on this occasion that our Lord performs His first demonstration of power. It is no mere miracle; it is a sign, a miracle with a message. Let's look carefully at the words of this text to learn what God wanted to teach those close to Jesus - and to us from this wedding miracle.

Book: John 2:1-12

John 2:1 The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,
John 2:2 and Jesus and His disciples were also invited to the celebration.

John 2:3 The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told Him, "They have no more wine."

John 2:4 "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

John 2:5 But His mother told the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

John 2:6 Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons.

John 2:7 Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled,

John 2:8 He said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed His instructions.

John 2:9 When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over.

John 2:10 "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

John 2:11 This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.

John 2:12 After the wedding He went to Capernaum for a few days with His mother, His brothers, and His disciples.

Let's get into the Word:

Well into the week-long marriage festivities, Jesus' mother becomes aware of a most embarrassing situation—the wine has run out, and there appears to be no solution. Either no more wine is available, or there is no money to buy more wine. The guests seem unaware of what is happening. If something is not done, all will be embarrassed. Some commentators even inform us that litigation was possible in such cases. To prevent an embarrassing end to this couple's wedding, Mary seeks the Lord's assistance.

It would be easy to argue that the first miracle that Jesus performs is one that corrects an inconvenience, or stops a potential shameful incident, rather than a life changing experience for an

individual who was suffering, terrified, or in desperate need. Was the first miracle a solution to a “non-critical” problem.

How does the Lord’s response instruct you concerning the “non-essential” problems of your life?

Discuss the dialogue between Jesus and His mother with the following questions:

1. Was Jesus persuaded to perform a miracle due to His mother’s persistence? Why or why not?
2. Some Greek scholars state the best way to translate the meaning of the text goes something like this: “*Jesus, they are out of wine. We really need to do something,*” to which Jesus responds, “*Ma’am, what do you mean ‘we’?*” When it comes to you and I asking Jesus to do something extraordinary or out-of-the-norm, how does His response to His mother inform us of our own expectations?

The following verse is the only command known to be made by Mary in the Bible: *But His mother told the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.”* (John 2:5) Even though it seems she does not know exactly what her Son will eventually do, how does her response speak to you about the seasons of waiting and prayer in your life?

In light of what we read, how many people at the wedding ceremony realized a great miracle had been performed in their midst?

When God intervenes with the miraculous, is it necessary for hundreds or thousands to witness it? Why or why not?

John 2:11 records that this miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed His glory. How could our Lord’s glory have been manifested when so few even knew a miracle had been performed?

Let’s get real (with self!)

Reflect on a time when you experienced the miraculous, but few knew of your experience.

What did you learn about your Lord and His relationship with you?

How has that miraculous event changed your life? Was it a sign that pointed you to a truth that you never want to forget? What is that truth?