

January 20, 2019

*The
First
Miracle*

John 2:1-11 (CEB)

*Meaningful,
Stirring,
Joyful.*

*Hope,
Love,
Unity*

*Wedding
at Cana*

*“Joy
Creates
Belief”*



2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and ² Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. ³ When the wine ran out,

Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any wine."

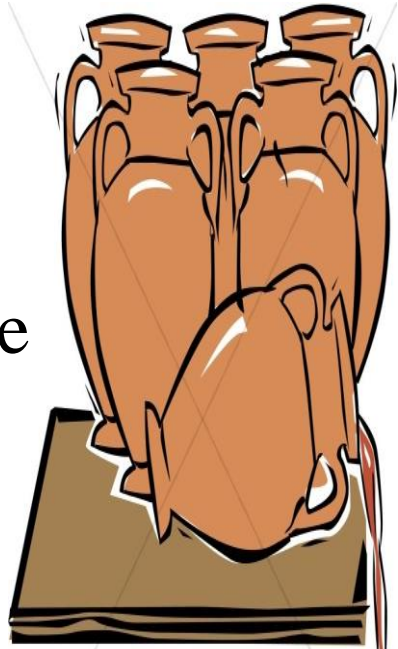
⁴ **Jesus replied**, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't come yet."

No Wine!

A tremendous embarrassment to the family. 100 gallons of wine were often necessary for a good wedding. This was a party, a celebration.

⁵ His mother told the servants,
“Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶ Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons.



Six jars used for purification
Ceremonial Vessels for
Spiritual/Religious use.

Radical...
Purifying Water,
Ceremonially Blessed

Ritual washing
was a way of getting close to God
These ritual jars were probably
for religious purposes.

*Jesus reminds us that Joy &
Celebration is an integral part of
any worship.*

Celebration is vital to *Right Thinking!*
Right Thinking without **Celebration**
is Legalism.

Preachers advocate for change because what
is meaningful has forgotten what Joyful
Stirring brings to Worship.

Liturgy, Hymns, Readings, Preaching,
without stirring or joy is not conveyed to
others.

A Wedding was a week long celebration of **Hope, Love, & Unity** for a community.

Wine, Food, & Dance!

A reverent celebration similar to Passover.



Wine was a symbol of Joy.

Jesus was bringing joy in overflowing abundance.

Hope, Love, & Unity are Our gifts to the brokenness in others.

Joy is apart of Reverence

There was
a Jewish Saying,
*Without wine
there is
no joy*".

In the
Old Testament
Wine was often a
Symbol for the coming
Kingdom of the Messiah.



We often confuse reverent
“do what we do”
for Joyful Worship.

Or

“I like this”
with Joy
deep in
our soul
over the Grace
given to us.

**We must find
Meaningful/Stirring /Joy in one setting**

⁷ Jesus said to the servants,
“Fill the jars with water,”
and they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them,
“Now draw some from them
and take it to the headwaiter,”
and they did.”



One of the most beautiful weddings that
I have ever performed had no music,
one bouquet of flowers, 8 people in
attendance.

The Beauty was found in the Joy and
the Stirring displayed in the eyes of the
couple and their family.

Meaning was found in the Stirring Joy
conveyed in their expressions.

What does your expression in worship
convey about the meaningfulness of
these moments “in between”.

⁹ The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn't know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

The headwaiter called the groom ¹⁰ and said, *“Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now.”*

Bam!
That's it!



We are to surprise the community with our contagious Joy, Attitude of Celebration, And eagerness to be apart!

Leave them bewildered by our absence of snootiness, gossip, criticism, and “know it all” attitude.

¹¹ This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. **He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.**



Meaningful,
Stirring, & Joyful
must meet each
other to create a
Celebration of
Hope, Love,
& Unity!

The Church is the Bride of Christ!