

“THESE ARE WRITTEN...”

John 2:1-11

Life on the desert– I spent 5 yrs learning how dry and empty life can be in the desert.

We often read of someone dying on the desert, trying to sneak into the U.S. from Mexico? As cool refreshing water satisfies our physical thirst, so we need something to satisfy our *spiritual* thirst

When our life seems dry and empty, Jesus has come to satisfy that thirst.

When Jesus came to earth, His words & works demonstrated there was something different about Him.

Those who sought the truth saw the evidence and were convinced.

They became so excited they had to tell somebody about it! – *so their thirst would be satisfied too!*

Witnessing–telling others what you've seen:

1:35-37 The next day John was there again with 2 of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷When the 2 disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

1:40-42 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was 1 of the 2 who heard what John had said & who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon & tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus.

1:45-46 Philip found Nathanael & told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, & about whom the prophets also wrote–Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come & see,” said Philip. –No theological argument

****When people were ready to accept Him, it didn't take a lot of theological argument to convince them.**

****When people weren't ready to accept Him, no amount of theological argument could persuade them (5:37-42; 5:46-47)**

Coming face-to-face with the evidence concerning Jesus forces people to make a choice.

We must decide between belief and rejection, light and darkness, life and death! That’s the choice we’re forced to make.

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

3-FOLD PURPOSE:

To demonstrate that Jesus is the Son of God, i.e., God Himself

=> so that we might trust Jesus personally

=> so that we might receive eternal life

John wrote his story of Christ’s acts around 7 **SIGNS** that show that Jesus is God’s Son => **GOD**

TESTIMONY THAT JESUS IS GOD

1st sign demonstrating that Jesus is God: **wedding in Cana.**

1ST SIGN: TESTIMONY OF WATER TURNED TO WINE 2:1-11

SCENE DESCRIBED 2:1-2

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

²*Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.*

DIALOGUE BETWEEN JESUS AND HIS MOTHER: 3-4

When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

She knows where He came from! Yet her faith in Jesus is evident.

Mary seems to think this would be an excellent time for Him to reveal Himself.

His response is not an attack; it's a simple observation that His purposes & her purposes are not the same.

She wants to advance His cause; He responds: "*The time's not right!*"

DIALOGUE BETWEEN JESUS' MOTHER AND THE SERVANTS

Mother tells servants to do anything He tells them. 5

She didn't know what to expect, but had a sense he would do *something*.

In any case, she told them to do *whatever* He says.

Her faith in Him is evident!

She believes He's able to solve problem and provide what they need

DIALOGUE BETWEEN JESUS & SERVANTS

6 water pots are sitting there

Pots contained water to wash hands of guests before the meal in every Jewish home—religious, ceremonial cleansing.

Jesus tells them to fill the jars with water 6-7

Now there were 6 stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding 20 or 30 gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the ser-vants, "Fill the jars with water." & they filled them up to the brim.

They do what they're told because of His mother's faith in Him.

They fill them to the brim.

They receive back according to what they put in!

If they fill pots ½ way,

they receive only ½ the wine.

He doesn't touch the water.

He doesn't speak to the water.

He doesn't wave a wand over the water

He tells them: draw it out & take it to man in charge

They obey—water turns to wine. 8 *He said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast."*

That's some act of faith!

They know where it came from!

Do you think they expected anything but water?

Would YOU have gone to draw some out? Yeah, right! Take some water to the host?

Like he's going to be fooled into thinking this is wine?!!

He's not THAT drunk!

They're really going to look STUPID taking WATER to the host. What would he SAY?

But *THEY DID IT!*

DIALOGUE BETWEEN

M.C. & BRIDEGROOM

9-10 *When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, & did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ & said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."*

When the host tastes the wine, he acknowledges this is the **best of all!**

He knows there's something strange about this wine.

Maple Syrup Contest–

Taste buds get insensitive after a while. So they use a dill pickle to reactivate the taste

Wine does that too—they become insensitive to the taste.

*That's why they serve the cheap stuff last—but the host could tell **there was something different***

But he does know people don't save the BEST wine for last.

Most people save the cheap stuff for last—when everyone's too drunk to notice or care!

*This is the **BEST** wine yet!*

RESPONSE TO THE MIRACLE: 11 *This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.*

What did Jesus demonstrate by His miracle?

Jesus revealed His glory

Through this miracle, Jesus showed Who He is.

Miracle of making best wine teaches 3 TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS:

1. Jesus is Creator.

He shows His creative power => He is God.

He's able to change plain water into best wine ever!

2. Jesus can create blessing out of empty water pots.

Religious ritual won't satisfy our thirst.

If your religious water pot has left you dry & empty, I have good news: **JESUS CAME TO SATISFY YOUR THIRST!**

When the wine is gone and there's nothing to satisfy our thirst, Jesus fills our life with the BEST of all!

3. Jesus is able to satisfy His people & meet our needs.

How do the disciples respond to the miracle?

His disciples trust Him!

SO, HOW ABOUT YOU?

Is your cup feeling dry and empty?

Jesus is Creator — He is GOD

He specializes in satisfying people who are dry & empty.

He can satisfy our thirst.

The servants believed Him and watched Him turn water into wine.

He came to offer new life and blessing to us too.

That's what God, the Creator, came to do.

Now He offers that new life to all who trust Him.

He will take that dry, empty life and fill it with blessing and significance,
when we quit trying to "do it ourselves," and trust Him.

JESUS OFFERS TO SATISFY OUR THIRST

Jesus specializes in satis-fying people who are dry and empty

Jesus can take a life that's dry & empty & fill it.

Jesus can satisfy our thirst

Will YOU trust Him?

If you're already trusting Him, has He satisfied YOUR thirst?

Are you sharing that refreshing, satisfying water of life with the thirsty, empty people around YOU?

That's why He left US here--to tell other people about the water of life--to show God's love to
the world--to OUR neighbors!