

Learn From Me - Water to Wine

Did you know that everything written in the bible, OT and NT, it all has one goal in mind and that is to point to Jesus. Some of it is there to teach us of creation, some to show us history, some are about what God has and can do, and some even about the future. But it all works toward our need for a Savior..... Jesus.

As we continue in the series Learn From Me, we've got to look at some things that Jesus did, that maybe just seem cool but don't look like a lesson to be learned. But everything Jesus did had great purpose and intentionality. And everything Jesus did has a lesson for us to learn, sometimes we just have to look a little closer.

Today is one of those days....as we look at Jesus' SECOND recorded miracle....turning water to wine!

John 2:1-12 (NKJV)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. 9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

This is one of those accounts that scores extra points for the cool factor. Whether you like wine or not....if you were there, you might have tried it just to see if it was true, to make sure it really just happened!

Now if we are going to talk about this miracle of Jesus turning water into wine, we have to address the elephant in the room. Because I've heard believers and non-believers use this to make some assumptions about drinking that are just not true, or partially true.

1. Was this really wine? Or was it grape juice?

The first thing we have to look at is the original wording. Say **oinos** (oy-nas) - the Greek word oinos means.....wine! Not juice. Every other place it is used in the NT, it is clearly wine. It's used to medicate wounds, upset stomachs, it's used alongside strong drink, we are told not to be drunk with it, not to drink too much of it.

When you put it all together, it's clear that it was fermented, alcoholic wine.

2. Is Jesus ok with drunkenness? Did He promote it or enable it here?

Do you remember when Jesus took the 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish, prayed and then handed it around to 5,000 people? Do you also remember that people took as much as they wanted and that there were 12 baskets of food left over?

Did Jesus provide an abundance? So there was more than what was necessary? So was He promoting gluttony? Of course not....

Creating something that can be abused doesn't make Him responsible when a person chooses to abuse it!

The bible talks a good deal about drinking. Wine in particular is spoken of in a positive manner:

Ecclesiastes 9:7 instructs, "Drink your wine with a merry heart."

Psalm 104:14-15 states that God gives wine "that makes glad the heart of men."

Amos 9:14 discusses drinking wine from your own vineyard as a sign of God's blessing.

Isaiah 55:1 encourages, "Yes, come buy wine and milk..."

And YES.....Jesus drank wine. We know He at least drank it at the last supper when He said "I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

He also defended Himself to the Pharisees about drinking wine (and eating)

Luke 7:33-34 (NKJV)

For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

So clearly the Last Supper was not the only time Jesus drank wine. But here is what we also know. Jesus was completely sinless.

We also know that Jesus taught that drunkenness is a sin, Paul taught that drunkenness is a sin. Addiction to anything is a sin. Anything in excess, abusing anything is a sin. We are supposed to have self-control, be sober minded, not dominated or enslaved by anything....

It's 100% clear when you read the entirety of the scriptures.....alcohol by itself is not a sin, however drunkenness IS A SIN.

And here is the trick.....drunk people never think they are drunk...right? They are always fine, they always only had a couple of drinks. Their perception is skewed....because they are under the influence. To a sober person...it's obvious.

Also drunkenness in God's eyes is not a BAC under .08%. It's when you are impaired. Basically once it weakens, diminishes, you begin functioning improperly.

When you "let loose" yeah, you can do that for a reason....YOU are under the influence.

When your worries disappear....YOU are under the influence....

When you become bold and outspoken....You are under the influence.....

And when you are under the influence of alcohol, it's a sin. You can have all those same things under the influence of the Holy Spirit...

Ephesians 5:18 (CSB)

And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit:

Listen to the conviction in your heart. It's up to YOU to make that choice. For some, like me, who had a drinking problem.....I choose to abstain. I know I can easily lose control and it's not a risk I'm willing to take. But at least I'm honest with myself.....are you?

If you do choose to drink....be careful. Listen to the Holy Spirit not the spirit of spirits...if you think you are probably ok for "just one more" you probably aren't.

You as a follower of Christ are also supposed to be an example to others and not be a stumbling block....refrain from drinking around people who have or have had drinking problems....

WOW....let's get back to John 2...

John 2:1-2 (NKJV)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

Here we see it was a wedding. Mary, Jesus, Jesus' boys.....all invited! For a couple of them it's the 3rd day of following Jesus....

This shows that it was likely a relative or close family friend's wedding because it was a few miles from home.

Now weddings in Israel were several days long, often up to a week. The financial responsibility was the grooms and to run out of wine would have been a huge embarrassment and it would sometimes even result in a lawsuit from the relatives of the bride!

John 2:3-4 (NKJV)

And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

I see this exchange here and have to wonder....why did Mary come to Jesus with this issue. I don't know if she helped plan the wedding or she just happened to go to get her glass of wine and it was gone or what.

Jesus hadn't really done much publicly yet. We DO know that He performed that miraculous haul of fish just a few days prior. Maybe Mary thought if He could do that, He can do this....

He says "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

Woman.....I'm just here for the wedding! Nah, it wasn't harsh like that at all. For them, this was a address similar to ma'am. But at the same time as He says what does it have to do with me.....it's a distancing expression.

Jesus wasn't being rude, but wasn't so sure this is something He needs to be involved in. Why....because His time hasn't come....speaking of His crucifixion. It's not time for Him to be publicly revealed.

But mom is asking....but there's a greater mission in motion.....

What we know is that Jesus never did anything that wasn't the Father's will. He only did what please God. Here He doesn't seem so sure that He's to be involved.

I'm going to make an assumption based on the character Jesus shows throughout the scriptures.....something happened that isn't recorded here, the Holy Spirit spoke to Jesus here. He got the OK. I don't know if He stepped out to pray or what but He seemed unsure yet something changed....

We need to learn from Jesus here...sometimes the thing you should do is the thing you aren't thinking of.

How many times have you said NO to an opportunity because:

- It's someone else's job
- That's not what you are there for
- It's inconvenient for you
- You don't think it's the right time

Maybe don't react so hastily.....ask God to show you. Even when you know He'll say "no" just maybe He'll say "yes"

John 2:5 (NKJV)

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Something has changed. I can almost see a smirk on Mary's face. Like inside she's thinking "this is going to be AWESOME!" But outside it's "do whatever He says"

John 2:6-7 (NKJV)

Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

6 ordinary stone waterpots used for cleansing ceremonies. They fill them up. This was work, they didn't have a pressurized water hose, probably a hand pump and buckets.

John 2:8-10 (NKJV)

And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. 9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Lots of things to learn from Jesus....3 things in particular

The groom received a tremendous blessing.....and didn't know where it came from.

Do you do what you do to bless or be recognized? The greatest blessing is the one that includes mystery and wonder because they make you appreciate the gift so much more. **Bless in secret.**

We can also learn from Jesus that **sometimes we need to step up and help someone out.** Even if it's bailing them out of their own problem that they caused. We sometimes just sit back and watch someone flop around because they need to learn a lesson....

Sometimes they do.....but sometimes the lesson they need to learn is there are people to help them when they mess up. They are not in this alone. And not every mistake is the end of life....

And then, when you help.....give them your best. You do it better than just what's necessary. Don't do the bare minimum. BLESSING is a special favor, mercy, or benefit.

Make it special. Make it memorable. Make it the best.

When you do that.....you reflect Jesus to the world!

John 2:11-12 (NKJV)

11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

Glorify Jesus. This is the key to everything you do. Who does it make famous, you or Jesus....does it cause people to believe in you or believe in Jesus?

Maybe you feel today like you wine has run out. Can Jesus take something you have and turn it into something else?

Jesus can turn the sour into the sweet.

Jesus can turn bitterness into peace.

Jesus can turn hatred into love.

Jesus can turn anger into joy.

Jesus turns death into life he is the resurrection.

Jesus turns people who feel meaningless to people who feel they matter.

Jesus turns blindness into seeing

Jesus turns bondages into deliverances

Jesus can turn sinners into saints

Jesus turns a fan into a follower