

SERMON SERIES

JOHN | BELIEVE

John 2:1–12 · The Wedding at Cana

MAIN IDEA

At a wedding in Cana Jesus steps into the emptiness to perform the first of his signs, turning water into wine. This sign of turning water into wine points past itself into showing God glory and helps the disciples to believe. Jesus meets our real problems, makes us new from the inside out, and reveals his glory so that ordinary people would see it and believe.

BACKGROUND

This is Nathanael's hometown, the skeptic from last week who asked, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" The same person is now standing in his own village of Cana watching Jesus work. A wedding in that world was the event of the year; the whole town turned out and the celebration could go on for days. It was the groom's job to make sure the party went well, so to run out of wine was not just awkward, it was a public humiliation that could follow a family for years. Notice, too, how God has worked with water at the start of other stories: in Noah's day water became judgment, and Moses' first miracle turned water into blood. Jesus' first sign runs the other way: water into wine, judgment into grace.

01 Jesus Addresses Real Problems John 2:1–5

Mary did not have a plan or a solution. She just knew who to bring it to. Sometimes that is exactly where faith begins.

- Running out has a way of exposing what we were taking for granted. What is the "wine" that has run out in your life right now: the thing that used to be full, and now the light is dinging?
- Mary brought the problem to Jesus first, not as a last resort. Where do you tend to go first when something runs dry, and what would it look like to bring it to Jesus first instead?
- Mary looks at the disciples and answers them, "Do whatever he tells you." Where is God asking you for that kind of yes before you can see how it works out?

02 Jesus Makes Things New John 2:6–8

The servants could fill the jars with water; only Jesus could turn it into wine. You bring the water, he brings the miracle. Salvation has always worked exactly like that.

- Six stone jars for ceremonial washing: wash your hands, wash the cups, keep the rules, stay clean on the outside. How are you still trying to live in the stone jars, hoping that if you scrub hard enough God will finally be pleased with you?
- Noah built the ark, but God shut the door. The servants filled the jars, but only Jesus made wine. Where are you straining to do the part that is only his?
- The rules could get your hands clean; only Jesus can get your heart clean. What would "new from the inside out" look like in one area of your life this week?

03 Jesus Reveals His Glory John 2:9–12

Sign. Glory. Believe. That is the whole series in one verse. A sign is not the destination; it points past itself to the One who made it.

- The world serves its best first and leaves you worse off at the bottom of the cup. Jesus saves the best for last. Where have you tasted the world's wine running out?
- Jesus manifested his glory not in the temple in front of the professionals, but at a wedding, over an ordinary problem, in front of a handful of fishermen. Where might God want to put his glory on display in the ordinary places of your life?
- The power to turn water into wine is amazing; the power to turn a sinner into a saint is greater. Who is one ordinary person you could point to Jesus this week, and what is one step you will take?