

Stage III. The Early Judean Ministry

B. The First Glorious Week of Disciple-Making

5. Day Seven : Jesus Performs His First Miracle

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #035 JN 2.1-11

- 1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
- 3 After the wine had run out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."
- 4 *"Woman, how does that involve you and me?"* Jesus replied. *"My hour has not yet come."*
- 5 His mother said to the servants, "DO whatever he tells you to do."
- 6 There were six large stone water pots standing nearby, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus commanded the servants, *"Fill the pots with water."* So they filled them to the brim.
- 8 Then he directed them, *"Now draw some out, and keep on taking it to the master of the banquet."*
- 9 They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said,
- "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now!"
- 11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Cana, In Galilee
Timeline	Mid-March, 30 AD (Month Two)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage III: The Early Judean Ministry
	B. The First Glorious Week of Disciple-Making
Title	5. Day Seven: Jesus Performs His First Miracle

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NOTE: Each of the sayings of Jesus in this text is a link to commentary and application regarding that statement. If you have the time, we encourage you to skim through these links. These sayings of Jesus abound in truth and grace and are worth careful consideration and meditation. Some are more difficult to interpret as well. We hope our explanation found in the links will help make their meaning more clear to you.

COMMENT:

Day Seven climaxed the first week of Jesus' disciple-making ministry in a glorious way. It revealed another crucial aspect of discipleship according to Jesus. It also introduced the first of thirty-five specific miracles described in the four gospels. Jesus performed hundreds, if not thousands of other miracles of healing and deliverance during his 40 months of ministry that are not described in detail in the gospels as are these thirty five.

We have seen that discipleship begins when we first commit ourselves to following Jesus by faith. Day Seven shows us that discipleship should be a non-stop process of growing into ever-greater faith, as Jesus reveals increasing measures of his glory to us. Just as our Lord intends discipleship to cause consistent numerical growth in the number his disciples through the ongoing process of multiplication, he intends individual disciples to never stop growing into greater faith in him. Thus, John summarized his description of Day Seven by writing:

"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him."

Jesus had ended day four in Bethany by promising that the "heavens would be opened" as the floodgates of revelation were opened and light poured out through Jesus, the light of the world. The revelation of his glory as the God-man would lead to greater faith in him. The ease with which Jesus turned about 600 liters of stale water into the most delicious wine ever tasted on earth was a revelation of his glory in many different ways:

1. Jesus revealed His glory as the *"Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"* through His cleansing blood. Jesus took the water in six ceremonial cleansing pots, that could not wash away sin, and transformed it into wine--a prime symbol of blood in the Scriptures. Jesus' blood does cleanse from all unrighteousness.

2. Jesus revealed His glory as the Creator-man by instantly turning water into wine. As the Creator, Jesus made the water, soil, nutrients, grapes, sunlight, and time necessary for the production of all the wine since creation. It is all the product of his creative genius and power.

However, by speeding up the process of creating wine from water into instantaneous conversion, Jesus demonstrated his glory as Creator in a miraculous way. The One who spoke creation into being instantly with his word commanded wine into being in a sliver of a moment, too. This is what only the Creator God can do. Miracles are Divine proof that only the Trinity is capable of performing in the way that Jesus did.

3. Jesus revealed His glory by meeting human need with Divine grace and power. This is the trademark of Trinity-love in action. "Running out" of what we need is the open door to experiencing Jesus' grace as he provides our needs according to his riches in glory.

4. Jesus revealed His glory by working through the obedient faith of Mary and the servants. This is the trademark of disciples who follow Jesus. Obedience leads to growing faith like nothing else. The key attitude of a disciple was expressed by Mary: *"Whatever He says to you, do it."* Better advice in six words were never given.

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5. Jesus revealed His glory by providing MUCH more quality ("you have saved the best wine until the last...") AND quantity than the need required. As Jesus said: *"I came so that they might have eternal life, and that in the overwhelming abundance!"*

6. Jesus revealed His glory through the symbolism of a wedding. The images of the Bride, Groom, and the "Wedding Supper of the Lamb" are key concepts in Johannine theology and writings. John's choice of this sign-miracle (one out of just seven in his gospel) is no accident. Jesus is the Groom; the Church is the Bride; HIS wedding feast is coming.

7. This sign (and all seven sign-miracles in John) revealed Jesus' glory by pointing to the ultimate sign: His death and resurrection. Jesus will shortly declare THAT sign to be the ultimate proof of His identity in John 2.29. John highlighted this aspect of the miracle by telling us that it happened "on the third day" (since the fourth day).

The first five disciples *"believed in him"* as the outcome of this miracle, even though they had already believed in him. This was not new faith, it was stronger, deeper faith. Seeing the glory of Jesus inevitably strengthens our faith in him. This is why Jesus topped off week one of disciple-making with the lesson that discipleship is a process of constantly growing in our faith in him.

APPLICATION:

Jesus meets ALL of our needs through the same process: awareness of need, prayer, His Word, faith, and obedience. This process unveils His glory through His gracious provision, which always surpasses our need. When Jesus produces full obedience in us, this also leads in turn to strengthened faith in us, and His testimony communicated to the world. *"Jesus is the same, today, yesterday, and forever."* Heb. 13.8

DON'T WASTE YOUR NEEDS. Bring them to Jesus in prayer. *"Whatever He says to you, do it."* Stretch out in faith with full obedience. Trust Him for His provision. Declare His glory as He reveals Himself to you.

What needs will you bring to Jesus today?