

“The Miracles of Jesus” – Part 1
(Recorded by John)

INTRODUCTION:

- I. Let us turn in our Bibles to the book of John...
 - a. The author of this book was one of the Sons of Zebedee, and a brother of James (***Matthew 4:21-22***); (***Mark 1:19-20***).
 - b. Zebedee, his father, was a fisherman of Galilee and; John himself was a partner with his brother (James) along with Andrew and Peter, in the fishing business.
 - i. He was called to become a disciple of Jesus while he was mending his nets (***Matthew 4:21-22***).
 - c. He was a disciple of John the Baptist (***John 1:35-***
 - d. He’s one of the 1st six disciples called (***John 1:37-51***).
 - e. He is named in the list of the Apostles (***Matthew 10:2-3***), and is included in the innermost circle of disciples.
 - f. He is also acknowledged by scholars to be also the author of 1John, 2John, 3John, and Revelation.
 - i. Therefore, he is regarded as having written five of the books of the New Testament.
 - ii. I bring all of these facts to the table for a reason. We point to all of these facts to establish the John’s... credentials. *John’s testimony of Jesus Christ is credible.*
- II. That said, many of you may be familiar with the teaching that - the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) were each individually written and directed to a “certain class” of people.
 - a. What I mean... is that many faithful brethren proclaim that...
 - i. Well, Matthew was written primarily to the Jews...
 - ii. Mark wrote primarily from the Roman point of view...
 - iii. That Luke addressed himself to the Greeks...
 - iv. And that John’s gospel has been coined... the “universal” gospel.
 - b. Now, I do believe that there are definitely elements to each gospel that lend to those statements; I prefer to let the text speak for itself...
 - i. In other words - Matthew does not say explicitly in his writing, “from Matthew- to the Jews” And so on.
 - ii. Do I do believe there are elements present in each to each gospel account that would appeal to a distinct people; with distinct backgrounds? Certainly... I do, the evidence is there...
 1. However, I merely want to be cautious in saying that - this gospel was written to these folks, whereas this one was written to those... and so on and so forth, when they do not state so explicitly.
 - iii. All of that being put forth, I will agree that the simplicity and manner in which the story is told by John gives this gospel its “universal” appeal.
 - c. And I do believe that John states more clearly - than any other gospel writer - the exact purpose for writing the gospel in **chapter 20:30-31**:
 - i. Three words stand out with significance in this passage: *1) signs, 2) believe, and 3) life.*

- ii. These words set forth the meaning and purpose of the miracles of Christ! They were preformed with the intent of establishing evidence that Jesus *was* who He claimed to be.
- d. John records a total of seven miracles that occurred BEFORE the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
 - i. Changing water into wine **(2:1-11)**;
 - ii. Healing the nobleman's son **(4:46-54)**;
 - iii. Healing the lame man **(5:1-18)**;
 - iv. Feeding the five thousand **(6:1-14)**;
 - v. Walking on the water **(6:16-21)**;
 - vi. Healing the blind man **(9:1-12)**;
 - vii. And raising Lazarus from the dead **(11:1-46)**.
 - 1. These miracles or "signs" were all recorded for the expressed purpose of evidencing the declaration that, "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing on Him we may have life in His name".
 - viii. Therefore... we will be studying these 7 miracles over the next few lessons; as the basis for building and growing our faith in Jesus – the Son of God!
 - 1. Again, these miracles were preformed before Jesus' death. We also have recorded the resurrection of Jesus, along with another multitude of fish caught in the 20th chapter. It should go without saying; those miracles are no less in significance than these... But we will look at the 7 preformed before Jesus' crucifixion.

BODY:

- I. **Turning to John, chapter 2. Let us consider how it is that Jesus Turned Water to Wine (John 2:1-11)**
 - a. **READ Verses 1-3...**
 - i. So, while the feast was going on, an emergency arose... The wine ran out. This wasn't a *life or death* emergency... but it would have been huge embarrassment to the bridegroom because he was responsible for supplying the provisions for the feast.
 - b. **READ Verse 4...**
 - i. Let's note briefly... that Jesus never said or did anything at random. The use of the expression, "*Woman*" in addressing His mother is not at all comparable to the usage of the term today. When a man addresses a woman in similar fashion now (in the present day), he is being terse or abrupt; but that was not the case here. "*Woman*"... as used in their custom, was a title of courtesy & respect.
 - ii. Also notice, that Jesus did not say to her, "*Mother*", as we might would expect. Jesus was making the point... His powers were not given to Him to do the bidding of His mother! In the use of these powers, He worked, not as the son of Mary, but as the Son of God! Note that there is no record of her at all being offended...
 - c. **READ Verses 5-11**
 - i. As far as the record is concerned, this is the first miraculous sign of any kind that Jesus performed. There is absolutely hint or suggestion at all (as far as the Bible is concerned) that He performed miracles while growing up.

- ii. A great deal has been said about this miracle by those who like to find excuses for drinking alcoholic beverages. They like to point out this sign so as to show that indeed - Jesus approved of the drinking of alcohol. However, there are some things that we should consider...
 - 1. The strongest alcoholic content a wine in Palestine could have was about 5 or 6%. (That is less than most alcoholic beverages have in them today.) And even then, the wine would be diluted with water so as to make it last longer. There is no mention of diluting the water here, though.
 - 2. Consider, the Greek word “oinos” here, refers to grape juice... That word represents fruit of the vine - ranging from fresh grape juice to a highly fermented state.
 - a. Take that statement... along with fact that Jesus would in no way condone the sin of drunkenness... and measure it up with the context. The people of the land at that time could only enjoy “fresh grape juice” during harvest, so the privilege of drinking fresh grape juice would have been a real treat.
 - 3. If Jesus were revealing His powers with an undeniable miracle, what better way than to produce fresh grape juice at a time when such juice was completely unavailable (*look to **verse 13** and expound- it was not long before the Passover, in early spring*)
 - a. So, producing *fresh grape* juice would have provided an undeniable, irrefutable miracle.
- d. Some folks might say, “Well, what kind of a sign or miracle is that? Why change water to wine... and how does *that* speak to Jesus’ Deity?”
 - i. The easy answer I’d respond to that question is... well, can you do that?Do you know anyone who has ever turned water to wine?
 - 1. How about those folks on television (or across town for that matter) who are claiming to perform miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit. Have they turned water into wine? I haven’t seen or heard of anyone doing that lately... So, this miracle IS unique!!
 - ii. That said, consider what this miracle *really* demonstrated... at its core!!!
 - 1. Now, we aren’t going to make this a science class, but those of you... who *are* into science and chemistry... can appreciate the fact that water and wine have totally different molecular structures!
 - a. (Water – 2parts hydrogen, 1 part oxygen... versus the molecular structure of pressed grapes)
 - 2. In other words... Jesus did not put in some water-coloring or grape-flavoring into the water within the waterpots of stone and say... “Aha... look” ... NO!
 - 3. He changed water... to wine! He changed the entire molecular structure... which speaks to the fact that Jesus possesses the power to change the elements! This speaks to His power over the elements of the world!!! Of course, that should be no surprise to the Christian, as we **Consider John 1:1-3.**

- a. He was in the beginning with God... Always was God. All things were made through Him. He was the true Light, the Light of the world, but the world did not know Him (**John 1:6-11**). The disciples beheld His glory, but many who saw and heard Him did not really see Him for who He is; they did not behold His glory. (*But... this miracles was written that you may believe!!!...*)
 - b. Jesus has the ability to create and change the elements... Let us appreciate Him for who He is and what He has to offer... He didn't just – change some water to wine... He proved His command over the elements of this world with this sign!
4. We would do well to remember that this Jesus (the Son of God) can and will exercise His authority over the elements again one day... People may scoff... saying, "You Christians have been preaching the return of the Lord for the better part of 2,000 years... nothing has changed!"
 5. I would imagine people did the same thing to Noah, a preacher of righteousness. (**EXPOUND**)...
 - a. **Now READ and expound 2Peter 3:1-13**
 - i. These signs were recorded, so *"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name"* – **John 20:31**
 - ii. Jesus can change the elements... He has proven that!

II. Let's turn now to John, chapter 4 and read how Jesus healed the Nobleman's Son (John 4:46-54)

a. READ/ EXPOUND Verses 46-50

- i. Observe brethren... It was 1 o'clock in the afternoon when this happened. It would have been a four hour walk from Cana to Capernaum, but the man didn't get back home until the next day. So... He did not anxiously rush home to make sure his son was made well. **In faith, the Nobleman accepted the words of Jesus!** There is a lesson in that fact alone...

b. READ Verses 51-54

- i. This story is placed here because it's the 2nd sign Jesus did in Galilee (**v.54**). The first sign He did in Galilee was the changing of water to wine at Cana, but this isn't the second sign He had done anywhere. John tells us specifically that, *"while He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs He was doing and believed in His name"* (**John 2:23**). The Galileans welcomed Jesus into their midst because they had seen the things which He had done in Jerusalem (**John 4:45**)...
- ii. That said, I'd like to direct our attention to something here in which we've just read.... So as to help us in our faith.
- iii. I ask for you to consider that - what we learn from *this* miracle... is that - Jesus demonstrates here His power over distance....
 1. Jesus demonstrates His power over **distance** in this sign.

- iv. What does that mean for you? Well, it can *truly mean a whole lot... if you will give it the proper attention and meditation...*
 - 1. How many times (in your life) have you been in *true anguish of spirit... genuine despair*?
 - a. Even for the Christian... sometimes... Heaven can feel so far away! With sin, pain, destruction, sickness, death... all around us in this world... Heaven can seem like an infinite distance away. But for Christ, distance... is nothing to Him... Distance is nothing for the Son of God!
 - 2. **READ Psalm 119:145-152**
 - 3. Even though Heaven may seem so far away for us at times, distance means nothing to Jesus. He exercises power over distance...

SO, IN CONCLUSION...

- I. I hope that what we've considered today helps to only reaffirm our faith in Jesus...
- II. What we've looked at were the 1st two – of the seven signs in which John records for us before the crucifixion.
 - a. We've given attention to the account of Jesus turning water into wine...
 - b. And we've given attention to Jesus healing the Nobleman's son...
 - c. The purpose for us doing so is stated in the twentieth chapter of the gospel
 - i. *"...truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* - **John 20:30-31 (NKJV)**
- III. We've also learned from these events...
 - a. That Jesus has proven His ability to change the elements... **READ 2Peter 3:10-13**
 - i. We need to "get real" with ourselves. If the Lord returns today, will I be ready?
 - ii. Jesus proved that He has the power over the elements
 - b. We also have learned from the texts this hour that Jesus also holds and exercises power over distance...
 - i. *"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth"* – **Psalm 145:18.**

Offer Invitation