

be a marriage that you invite Jesus Christ to be present at it. It is a good thing for you to own him, and to let him have a part in the wedding.

They that would have Christ with them at their marriage (must) invite him.

The disciples were also invited. They were a part of the group and they came to this wedding. It says that this was on the third day. Now it might have been that this wedding feast had lasted more than one or two days. And

Jesus came and was within the circle and arrived here

according to Verse 1 and 2.

Verse 3 and 4 - and when they wanted wine, various reasons suggested that the wine failed. Someone has said a sudden presence and large company who had arrived and that she was consulted with Jesus, or that one has suggested, that his mother wished for him to rise and go that the other guests might follow his example and so relieve the entertainer.

Still another suggestion has been made that she wanted him to entertain the guests with some of his discourses and so make them forget that the wine was gone. But perhaps she did not expect a miracle - for what followed was the

## "THE SIGNIFICANT MIRACLE"

John 2

This chapter yields three important ideas. First, the beginning of miracles. Second, the second miracle - the cleansing of the temple. Third, the miracle of the heart. Verse 23 to the end of the chapter.

A miracle is an effort in nature not attributable to the ordinary operation of nature, nor to the act of man. But it indicates some super human power. It is a wonderful work that it manifests power not which is superior to the ordinary forces of nature.

(A miracle) someone has said, is a transgression of a law of nature. A miracle is an event or effect contrary to the established constitution and course of things. That is which we know according to the law of nature. Something that is super natural which transcends the ordinary laws or the events of life. We may test our religion on divine revelation as to whether it transcends that of the human. Now this test may be applied to the miracles as to whether it was of God or from the Devil. If a miracle is of God, it is not immoral. It is not merely a freak of nature.

If it is a miracle of God it is aimed at that which is good.  
 It results in that which is good. And it establishes right.  
 I think John in one place said it is for us to try the  
 spirits. In the Bible there are certain miracles found  
 throughout, the miracles of Moses, the miracles in the  
 time of Elijah, the miracles in the time of Christ.

*Whiskey Men*  
 There are lots of people who take great interest in  
 the miracle we are to talk about, at Cana, where the water  
 was turned to wine. And if you study this, the whiskey men  
try to find in this incident a justification for their  
business. But the ground of their justification is utterly  
false. This miracle manifested the glory of Christ. And  
it strengthened the faith of his disciples. He uses the  
 word sign for this great event to prove that Jesus is the  
Christ. And he says this is the beginning of miracles.  
 We have the story of Christ changing water into wine at  
 the marriage of Cana of Galilee.

The occasion of this miracle came at a time when they  
 needed food, or it was of a necessity. You will remember  
 while the children were in the wilderness, God sent manna  
 so that they might have their daily needs met. Now this  
 was the third day after he came into Galilee. I do not

believe as John says there was no single day without some-  
thing extraordinary being done or said by Jesus. He filled  
 up his time better than anyone else who has ever lived. And  
this miracle was given to teach rather than to prove some-  
thing. And it was full of the spiritual symbols as we  
 follow him to this place in Cana of Galilee in the tribe  
 of Asher. Christ began to work miracles in an obscure  
corner of the country, remote from Jerusalem. He sought  
 not the honor of men.

You will take note that the occasion was a marriage.  
 Probably one of the parties were kin to Jesus or his mother.  
 His mother was there. She was there as one at home. Perhaps  
it was at this invitation that Jesus came and here is this  
 marriage being celebrated with feast, as they usually were.  
 In Genesis 29:22, Judges 14:10, it was a token of joy, and of  
 friendship.

Christ and his mother and disciples were principle  
 guests at the entertainment. The mother of Jesus perhaps  
 was helping out. There is no mention of Joseph. We  
 conclude that he was dead. Jesus was called, and came, and  
 accepted the invitation, for this marriage.

✓ I might say that it is very desirable when there is to

motive for Christian service is that some might serve for selfish purposes, some might serve to promote the welfare of their family or their friends, but the ideal is for the glory of God. If our service is for the glory of God it will be for the good of man. The sacred aim defined dignifies labor of all kinds.

What so ever ye do in word and deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Colossians 3:17. And what so ever ye do, do it heartily. This is the manner in which all service for the Lord should be done, with a cheerful heart, not grudgingly.

You will note the first necessity after a journey of the East is to wash the feet before a meal, to wash the hands, hence the presence of six water jars capable of holding 10-20 gallons each. They were convenient when the guests arrived. Jesus says to fill them with water, the servants filled them to the brim - an enormous quantity of water. What they now drew was wine, they took it from the pots that were filled with water, and having drawn it out now from this source. The simple statement was that the guests said this wine was good, that it was the best. You will note that this miracle was turning water into wine. You

beginning of miracles. It was naturally explained and it was of course well grounded in her faith in Him that here was a company of believers fresh from the banks of Jordan, who had come to make a public manifestation to Israel that here was the Messiah. They wanted wine. And you know quite often we find ourselves in hard places but it might have been that they had more company than was expected but his mother came to him and told him about the situation. But that she would have him make some decent excuse to the company and make the best of it to save the bride groom's reputation. Or that she would have him make up the want of wine with some speech of his, she knew he was now appearing as a great prophet, like unto Moses. And the first public miracle perhaps he had relieved her, of all doubts. Now we ought to always be concerned about the difficulties of our friends and someone has said, but he sort of rebuked her. But it was not too harsh. For he meant to honor her as a woman, when he spoke to her there was no harshness such as the English word might convey. The same word was used when he spoke in tenderness. They tell us from the cross, speaking of his care and his love to his faithful disciples. It is not mother but woman. The word showed that he must now gently take himself away

from the home and family environment. He, who had been known as Mary's son, must now be known as accused Messiah. He was the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

What have I to do with thee? This expression is found here in the Bible, perhaps means let me alone. What is there common to thee and me. We stand on this matter on altogether different grounds than when he said my hour has not yet come, the proper time for the miracle, not til the wine was wholly exhausted would his hour arrive. And yet it was only failing, otherwise he might have seemed to mingle elements rather than to change them.

Such a meaning is too trivial. His hour showing to mankind as God's appointed sufferer. The hour is not come. And here this work now to be wrought was for the sake only of a little band of believers who followed him and would have no public consequence.

In Verse 5 she took the proof and submitted to him and said, whatsoever ye sayeth unto you, do it. If he said give the guests water, when you call for wine, do it. If he says pour out from the bottom of the vessels, that it be spent, you do it. Those that expect Christ's favors must follow him in obedience and observe his orders. The

way of duty is the way of mercy. And Christ expects obedience. She directed them to carry out his orders. This was a time of gladness and yet Jesus was not out of place at this marriage. And he was there and the shortage arrived and Mary in her thoughtfulness, turned to him. Now some carry this a long way concerning the Virgin Mary, but here is the blessed gospel concerning the Virgin Mary. Have you ever heard that gospel. "What so ever he sayeth unto you, do it". The only gospel the Virgin Mary has is to point men to Jesus Christ. What so ever he says to you, then you do that. Not what I say but what he says.

James 1:22, be doers of the word and not hearers only. Some think good things and never do them. Others imagine, see, plan, and expect to do good things but real servants of Christ actually perform good deeds for him. They are doers not dreamers, they perform, they are not pretenders. They accomplish things.

And as it indicates here, it is to do it for him, that is your motive. What so ever ye do, do all to the glory of God. I Corinthians 10:31. Paul states that the highest

life but rather what he wants to do and will do if I will accept him and give him a chance.

How did Christ change the water to wine at the wedding.

Well, he worked a miracle to help people. If there is a need in your life, Christ is concerned and he is ready to help you to be sure.

Why is it that many people fail to experience his miracle working power. It is because they do not meet one requirement -- the requirement of faith, of obedience.

When the mother said whatsoever he says to you, you do it.

If they had not had faith enough to do that, what they were told, the miracle never would have been performed.

Before Christ fed the multitudes, a little boy had to give up his lunch. Before he healed a sick woman, she had to touch him. And before he raised Lazarus, someone had to roll the stone away. And so the old song says, trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

I read the story of Betsy Barton who was paralyzed for six long years and had sought healing but had failed to find it. She was discouraged until one day she got the help needed from a man who lived next door. So often we

will also note that in contrast in the beginning of Moses miracle, his was to turn water into blood. Exodus 4:9, 7:20.

The beginning of Christ's miracles was turning water to wine. That's the different in the law of Moses and the gospel of Christ. The curse of the law turns water to blood but grace turns it to wine. It was done in water pots

Verse 6. For what use were these water pot intended was for purification. To what use Christ puts them is quite different, than that which they were intended for. They were water pots that had never been used to have wine in them. The quantity is uncertain but very considerable amount. We may be sure that it was not intended to be all used at the feast. Christ gives us himself abundantly

according to his riches. The water pots were filled up to the brim and the miracle was wrought suddenly in a magnificent way. As soon as they had been filled with water in Verse 8 the instruction were to draw them out without any ceremony in the eye of the spectator, he sat still, he wills a thing, and Christ does great marvelous things without noise in a hidden sort of way, without any

hesitation or uncertainty, he gives the instruction and Christ works for all. Those that would know Christ must

make trial of him. They must depend upon him to use the ordinary means to present their lives through faith if they

would have any sort of miracle worked. In Verse 9 and 10, has thou kept the good until now, that is to provide the real. The water only was taken from the well and the jars were filled and the servants could satisfy wine. It was then presented to the guests and it was pronounced good, they complimented him upon it, but how different the miracle than in the way of human imagination. The guests go on enjoying the wine until the conclusion of the banquet and his mother and others perhaps did not fully know this great miracle. The servants who drew the water knew, they only, and not the guests when the wine came. Active participation in the service of Christ's kingdom is the way to a preception of its secrets. His disciples believed on him. The miracles of Christ began at a wedding and that says a lot. Later his marvelous power healed the sick, and fed the multitudes, but here he is among these people living with them in the happenings of the ordinary and the most important social event in their lives, a wedding. And most of their weddings were simple in Cana. Sometimes they say a feast lasted seven days and new guests would arrive daily, those that were invited would come, and it took a lot of food, wine, and it is likely that Jesus and some of his disciples arrived in the latter part of the week. They were

sign of an entirely new relationship between man and God. He put a new meaning into religion. God gave Moses the power to perform miracles before Pharaoh the symbol of death and destruction, but here was Jesus, a symbol of life and happiness. And he came to live with people, love them, to enter into their daily lives, to weep with them, to rejoice with them, and to bring about the transforming power. Now I cannot explain Jesus' miracle of turning the water into wine, if I could explain it, I would not regard it as a miracle. But the evidence we have, I believe that he did it. And Jesus commanded this to be done. And these servants went to a nearby well or stream and filled these water pots. And some people have tried to give various explanations for this story but his disciples believed it. For we know he said he could destroy an entire Roman Army, say nothing of a hand full of soldiers. Or to turn just some water pots into wine, here was great transforming power and no person who believes in God doubts his ability to do that. The real miracle in the fact that Christ is the Son of God was at the wedding. Who were these people, nobody knows, just ordinary people like you but Jesus felt at home with them. And the miracle for me is not what God can do in my own

He cleansed it by the incoming of his presence. His presence means to repeal and he sets up business in his own name and as a throne, he judges them. Here is the sign of authority in Verse 18, that he has great power over every situation. Christ is concerned about his church, he loved it. He is always interested in its welfare. By cleansing the temple he pointed out their secular spirit. Second, he exposed the graft and greed and third, he pointed out their anti-missionary spirit for the courts of the gentiles had been built for worship but they were using them for their own purpose. And forth, he pointed out that he fulfilled the Messiah as coming through prophesy.

### III. Miracle of the Heart.

In Verse 23-25 we have many that believed in his name. Because they saw the miracles which he did. What were these miracles. We are unable to determine them but from the record of the close of the gospel, he says, and many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book. He went on to say that there were so many things which Jesus did to which if they should be written, everyone, I suppose

find help right at the back door or the front door and we are looking for something big. This man knew there were many things she could not do but he would not listen to those things. And we seldom gain help by emphasizing our troubles and weaknesses. Now there was one thing she could - she could breathe and this man told her to breathe like this and she had not been breathing as well as she could. Though most of her muscles were paralyzed, she could move some of the stomach muscles. And he told her to start using those and to do these simple things, innocent things, do them hard and let them prove themselves. And she started and later she said, upon these two exercises hung my help. With these two simple things, I started to climb the ladder of strength to win back my life.

To gain the miracle power of God, we must have enough faith to do what you can. And no person's situation is so bad that he cannot do something. At least you can walk down the isles, and get on your knees at the altar, that's the least anybody can do. And God then will do whatever is needed, to meet the need in that man's life. The well spring of Christ overflows at the very thirst, he has come to give life and more abundantly it says. And Israel's leader began at this point. Here was the all sufficient

grace from the first word filled the water pots. And no less than 130 gallon must have been sufficient. Here is the glory of his transforming power to change a thing. And here is the note of his goodness to give the best at the last. Christ gave the best, joy, peace, hope, the Lord, friendship. The Lord is good.

## II. A Second Miracle and the Cleansing of the Temple. Verse 14-17.

We find Him coming into the temple. Here is a striking contrast of the scene at the marriage and the scene in the temple where he is an unwelcome visitor. You know that this was his Father's house, it was the earthly house of the Heavenly King.

How the temple was defiled by those who professed to be friends of the temple, who used their religion as a cloak, who also used their religion for worldly gain and personal profit. They had no real zeal for God or honor for his name. If any man defiled this temple, him shall God destroy. There is a religious zeal that is unholy and polluting in the sight of God. That the Christian life is uttering defiled, that it is governed by these concerns of the body, and the religion becomes a form or an

ordinance.

Here was Christ coming in with all of this corruption. First, they were selling oxen, sheep, doves for sacrifices. No doubt the rents were high, the <sup>fees</sup> thieves were high, they had those who would judge the animals to certify them. That brought in considerable revenue. There was the money changers (table) where they changed money for convenience to collect the poll tax as a service from the tabernacle days. Exodus 30:12. And they had proclaimed it, he did not cease the sheep, oxen, but he prepared to drive them out. And he poured out the money, he tried to tell them to take these things hence and he gave them good reason for it. Make not my father's house the house of merchandise. Here is the reason why they should not profane the temple because it was the house of God, dedicated to his honor, and it was dedicated to the service of men and it should be held for that purpose.

The zeal of thine house had eaten me up. They were so zealous about the things of the house, that the Lord of the house himself was to them one who had been devoured. He had no place in her appointments. This is the place where the redeemer gets in the lives of those who for the gain of honor among men.



there stands one who will come after me, whose shoe laces I am not worthy to unloose, because he knows perfectly well all about him. All things are naked and open to his eyes, he loves you not withstanding, and he is able to save you.

You are found out by Christ, he knows you, and God help you. What does it matter that your mother, that your wife, that your brother or sister, your neighbor or your friend does not know you. But here is one that knows you. He knows not only your little weaknesses, he knows your sin, he knows your heart. He knows whether you are faithful to him, he knows why you serve him.

No man would want to go to a medical doctor who did not face the facts of a disease in a proper way. And here was Christ, these people were making a show of their beliefs but he did not commit himself to them.

*Follow for fish & loaves -*

*Jonah -*

*Some Proff. he great shame - 6 mo, fade away -*

*Judas -*

*Politician voted against concaves - Why  
The Pressure - "Man" where were your inner  
Breasts*

*So. May join 16, 66 P. M. WXR I*

even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

Yet here was a man who walking among these people unharmd went through the temple and worked his miracles and there were some who believed him and some who believed him not. We learn an awful lesson here that we may be convinced and yet not converted. We may go far but we may not go far enough. We may have excitement but we may not have renewed spirit of mind. We have many wishes and resolutions but not follow Christ.

Pharrows often said I have sinned.

Balaam admired the people and wished to die their death.

Saul who had another heart given him but it was not a new one.

Herod heard John the Baptist preach but he at last beheaded him.

This scripture pointedly says but Jesus did not commit himself unto them. He did not confide in them. He did not believe in their pretenses. He did not reckon them among his followers. He would not be familiar with them. He commits himself only to those who have really believed in him. Faith trusts Christ, Christ trust faith.

Now you can trust Christ with your reputation, you can trust him with your business, you can trust him with your friends, trust him with your health, trust him with everything. But Jesus was betrayed from the very beginning by some of these people who did not know how deceitful their hearts were. Why Jesus did not trust certain men who trusted him. The outward commitment of life to him and the belief which was merely a persuasion toward him on account of the signs. Christ can never commit himself to any man who does not commit himself to Christ. He cannot commit to me all that he is unless I have committed to him all that I am. We have seen that crowd in Jerusalem trusting Jesus, we would have been carried among that number.

I stop to say here that we still have a fever for statistics even to this very hour we put a great deal of emphasis upon this. Lord everything is going well, see how these people are trusting thee, see how they are coming into the church. Now Jesus did not commit himself to them. Why not. Because he knew all men, he was the word and the word became flesh and he had knowledge of men. There was a time when it was a very common thing to see mottoes in homes "How God seeth me". You can read

from the Psalms thou knows my down sittings and my up risings, thou knows my thought afar off. If you come with cherished sin, you tremble. If you are a broken hearted sinner, you know there is one who knows all about you. Jesus did not trust himself unto them. He needed not that anyone should bear witness concerning man.

I cannot know any man apart from his testimony, or woman. But he knew men, and he knew the tremendous truth of it. He knew all men. He knew what was in man. And we fail to know men because we do not know man. But here is one who knew the whole make-up of man, he knew Nathanael - he knew Nathanael when he saw him under the fig tree that he was man without guile. Christ had knowledge of all men. When the Greeks came to him and said sir, we would see Jesus; he knew them. And he has all knowledge of you. He has knowledge about your spiritual being, about your humanity, about your sin. He has knowledge about your hopelessness and the things you are limited in.

What did Christ know of man. I think we are simply overwhelmed. You find as you go through the gospel of John that no two men appeared alike before him and yet he knew every person he met and he produced that knowledge of those people. In the midst as John the Baptist says