

Evotional: Sermon title: Jesus our Joy John 2:1-11

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The first miracle in John's gospel – Jesus turning water into wine - is a remarkable one in many ways! John lists seven signs in his gospel and these are:

- Changing water into wine John 2:1-11
- Healing the Jewish Official's son John 4:46-54
- Healing the paralytic at Bethesda John 5:1-18
- Feeding the 5000 John 6:5-14
- Walking on water John 6:16-24
- Healing a man born blind John 9:1-7
- Raising Lazarus from the dead John 11:1-45

This first sign is a multi-layered story which at different levels seems to evoke different reactions

Level 1: It is a bit embarrassing that Jesus chooses to do something so trivial for His first miracle! It was inconvenient and embarrassing that the bride and groom ran out of wine but hardly life threatening. Worse still, he appears to be quite abrupt with His mother – although perhaps her motive was that He should show himself as Messiah and miracle worker to his relatives who were at the wedding.

Level 2: It is encouraging that Jesus is interested in such details of our lives like how much wine we can offer our guests! It reminds us that nothing is too small for God and that we can pray about anything. He is interested and wants to be involved. Jesus brings joy into our lives (John 10:10, John 15:10) which comes from having fun, knowing God loves us and remaining close to Him.

Level 3: It is enlightening as a miracle because Jesus shows who He really is; not a prophet or preacher, but God himself who can turn the normal order of things upside down. There is also the symbolism of the water (used for ceremonial religious washing) being replaced with wine (representing His Spirit within us). In a way this miracle represents Jesus changing religious observance with motivated love. Even more powerful it confirms that Jesus takes ordinary things (and ordinary people) and makes them special.

Questions:

Why do you think Jesus chose to perform this act as His first miracle?

Why do you think He was initially reluctant to help out with the shortage of wine?

What can we learn from His mother's words to the servants about Him?

Why did he ask the servants to fill the jars with water and only then turn it into wine rather than just doing the whole miracle Himself?

How do you think the servants felt when they presented the wine (which they assumed was water) to the steward to taste?!

What stands out to you about this miracle? What does it tell us about Jesus?