

# That Is a Lot of Vintage Wine!

*Promise: signs point to Jesus as the one who brings enriched life.*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 128; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, 1/16/22)

*This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. – v. 11*

**Lead In** – We read that there were six stone jars holding twenty or thirty gallons. Let's employ a little math. That would be between 120 and 180 gallons, or between 307 and 406 typical 750 ml bottles, or between 1,535 and 2,030 5 oz glasses of what ends up being wine. That is a lot of wine for a village wedding feast! I think we can assume there were leftovers! There was plenty to share with others. And to top this all off the water changed to wine was of the finest vintage wine. What's going on here!

## I. This, We Are Told, Was the First of Jesus' Signs

- A. It is important how we respond to miracles...
- B. Signs point to something beyond themselves...
- C. What does the miracle at the wedding feast point to?

## II. Important Clues

- A. A number of words or phrases that stand out...
- B. Why a wedding feast for the first of the signs?
- C. The old vessels of cleansing filled with new wine...

## III. And Jesus' Disciples Believed In Him

- A. "Signs" used 17x, around 7 or 8 major signs...
- B. *Believing* is ongoing and matures...
- C. At every state the disciples need divine help to believe!

**Parting Shot** – In his explanation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Creed Luther writes, "I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith." Indeed, he posts many signs! And with the signpost of changing water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, we know there is a superabundance of vintage wine to effect cleansing, for with a later signpost we learn that the cup of wine at the supper is the new covenant in Jesus' blood, shed for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Come this morning for a foretaste of the feast to come.

**CS Lewis:** "When we are lost in the woods the sight of a signpost is a great matter. He who first sees it cries, 'Look!' The whole party gathers round and stares. But when we have found the road and are passing signposts every few miles, we shall not stop and stare. They will encourage us and we shall be grateful to the authority that set them up. But we shall not stop and stare, or not much; not on this road, though their pillars are of silver and their lettering of gold." – in "Surprised by Joy"

**Words or Phrases:** "On the third day"; "wedding [feast]"; "woman"; "My hour"; "six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification"; and "bridegroom".

**Ge 2:24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

## John 2:1-11 ESV

*The Wedding at Cana*

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup> This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**Is 62:4-5** You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For ... as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

**Ep 5:31-32** "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

**Images of the Marriage Feast of the Lamb** in closing two chapters of Revelation.

**Mk 4:41** And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

**Mt 16:16** Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

**Lk 24:36-38** But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

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