

The Gospel of John

Chapter 2, part 1

- I. Introduction
 - a. Our previous chapter introduced a number of ideas
 - i. Today's lesson continues with the works of Christ
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 1-3**
 - i. Three days after the calling of Nathanael and Philip, there was a wedding
 - 1. Mary (the mother of Jesus) was at this wedding
 - 2. Jesus and His disciples were at the wedding as well
 - a. One may think that this wedding was for a close relative of the Lord since it since Mary and He was there
 - ii. They ran out of wine
 - 1. Why exactly this happened, we cannot be sure
 - a. Perhaps they did not plan well
 - b. Perhaps they had drank too much
 - c. Whatever the reason, we know God's providential hand was at work to set up Jesus' first miracle
 - 2. Mary informs Jesus that they had run out of wine
 - b. **Verses 4-5**
 - i. Jesus responds to Mary's question
 - 1. Some would say that this is rude, but, it is not
 - 2. Others would say that this "Woman" is similar to how we would say "ma'am"
 - 3. Jesus makes sure to point her to His mission as the Messiah
 - a. He was not necessarily her son
 - i. As God, He is eternal
 - ii. Mary encourages Him to do something
 - c. **Verses 6-10**
 - i. There were six stone water pots nearby
 - 1. These were used for purification because stone is less permeable than pottery
 - a. Therefore, they were considered to be cleaner
 - 2. Jesus instructed them to fill these water pots with water
 - a. They filled them to the brim
 - 3. Jesus told them to take a sample to the master of the feast
 - a. When he had tasted it and realized that it was wine, he didn't know where it had come from
 - i. The servants that brought it to him knew what had happened

- ii. The master of the feast questions the bridegroom as to why he kept the good wine back until the end of the feast
 - 1. This was not the normal way things were handled
- ii. Were Jesus' actions wrong?
 - 1. The simple answer is an emphatic "NO"
 - a. Yet, if this was done today, many would condemn Him
 - i. Of course, they did the same thing in His day
 - b. Some have tried to explain this away
 - i. Two major ways
 - 1. Some say it wasn't wine, but, grape juice
 - a. This is not correct for a number of reasons
 - i. The Greek is plain that this was a fermented drink
 - ii. Grape juice has never been a celebratory drink
 - iii. The context teaches us that this was fermented wine
 - 2. Some say they only drank wine because the water was unclean
 - a. However, Jesus could have just purified the water – could He not?
 - b. He could have turned this water into anything
 - c. They sometimes mixed this so-called unpurified water with wine
 - d. We find a number of instances of people drinking water in the Bible
 - e. Are we really to believe that water was not more pure than it is now?
- 2. The Bible does not forbid the moderate use of alcohol
 - a. This may not be the popular teaching today, but, it is the truth
 - i. This was the Baptist position just a couple of generations ago
 - b. Jesus seems to teach that we will drink wine with Him during the Millennium (**Mat. 26:26-30**)
 - c. Wine is said to be healthy (**I Tim. 5:23**)
 - d. Wine makes the heart merry and cheerful (**Ecc. 9:7**)
 - i. Do we live in a day of double standard?
 - 1. Is it a double standard to take nerve relaxers while condemning others for drinking wine in moderation?
 - e. The Bible condemns drunkenness (**Eph. 5:18**)
 - i. Everything in our lives should be done in moderation
 - f. The Christian is sure not required to drink
 - i. But, he is far from condemned from drinking in moderation