

John 1:51 - 2:11

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~ This leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God will take us to that famous wedding in Canaan. But before we go, we didn't quite complete chapter one in our last report. We are considering a very important Gospel, so we're going to devote time to our Bible study. We saw Phillip lead the wise-cracking Nathanael to the Lord Jesus in our last report. Nathan made a joke about 'the things out of Nazareth' - but he didn't mean anything by it. Nathan immediately confessed Jesus as the Son of God and the Lord of Israel after that, which reveals something very important came out of Nazareth! Well, Jesus, more or less, rebuked Nathanael anyways; asking about seeing him under the fig tree. Over the next three years, greater things than these were seen by Nathan in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth. What we don't see are any more jokes about Jesus made by Nathan....

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51 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

~ Remember, Jesus had said to Nathan that Nathan was 'an Israelite in whom there was no Jacob!' Jesus used the word "guile" in verse forty-seven of chapter one, but that refers to Jacob! Here, we see Jesus following up and using the incident Jacob experienced when he was a young boy and had run away from home. Esau probably would have killed Jacob on the night that Jacob had the dream about the ladder. That was Jacob's first night alone in the world, too. We saw in Genesis that the Lord appeared to Jacob and a ladder was let down to him. On that ladder were angels ascending and descending.

The meaning of this dream for Jacob was that God had not lost contact with him. In fact, God says He would be with Jacob always. Jacob thought he had left God at home when he ran away. He had a very limited view of God, as we can well understand. Here, the Lord Jesus says that ladder was Himself.

The angels are ascending and descending now on the Son of Man. The angels are ministering to Him, and they are subject to Him, also. The Lord has complete control over all creation. Jesus can send them as messengers from Heaven and they will be required to return. The Father speaks from the top of the ladder and says, "this is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased." Of course, the ladder here and the ladder which Jacob dreamed of in Genesis is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of God, through the apostle John, is revealing the only way you and I will ever make any sort of contact with God. When the Lord Jesus says He is the way He means He is the ONLY way! No man cometh to the Father but by Him. He is the One we trust and rest upon; this is the One we believe in and everything that goes or comes from Heaven does so via Christ! This is very important to understand if you want to grasp the Bible completely.

Alright, from here we travel down to that famous wedding in Galilee; the one where everyone today is only interested in getting drunk at. I NEVER – NEVER – EVER hear anything taught from this passage except some slant on drinking wine; and what a shameful commentary that is on the total and collective ignorance of believers today. The alcohol message is so distant and secondary that it's laughable when I see arguments made from this passage for drinking wine. They're typically as incoherent as a drunkard. They never seem to articulate what point they're trying to make. They are absolutely lost in their thinking, and they drift from one particle of thought to the next with no connectivity. I honestly wonder to myself how many of those people function during an average day! Of course, they wonder about me, too, so – fair enough, I suppose.

The wedding at Canaan is the first miracle performed by Jesus; verse eleven tells us that. This miracle was performed so the disciples might increase in faith and believe on Jesus. This is also the answer to all those crazy and misguided stories about how Jesus did clay pigeon tricks when he was a little boy playing down in Egypt. No, friends, let's stick to the historical record and remain educated. People seem to love to add sensationally stupid stories that aren't Scriptural; that has always been an enigma to me, too, by the way. Anyone that pre-dates this wedding as the first miracle just happens to be totally ignorant of the Word of God.

Some think this wedding is a family wedding – or, at least, relatives of the mother of the Lord Jesus. That is a supposition that may or may not be true. I do know Jesus would like to come to YOUR wedding if you'll invite Him. We also have another time stamp placed on this incident by John. This is on the third day; meaning, three days after the even we just considered. Jesus was the Word with God in Heaven; then, we see Him thirty years after coming down to this earth as He goes over the hill with His disciples to this wedding.

The first miracle of Moses was turning water into blood; here, Jesus makes water into wine. Most fundamental conservative scholars agree this wedding would have been February or March in AD twenty-seven. I think that is another supposition that may or may not be true. One thing we know for a fact is that the Lord Jesus is on the move. In the last chapter at verse forty-four, we were in Bethsaida. Now we are in Cana at this wedding; verse twelve of this same chapter finds us at Capernaum and we will arrive at Jerusalem before this chapter is complete. It is a wide and encompassing geographical movement we are making.

Mary is never addressed as Mary in this Gospel. She is always called the mother of Jesus. Well, she comes along and makes this very unusual request in verse three. I think we are looking at a very poor family at this wedding to begin with. There simply wasn't the wedding budget to provide refreshments for everyone. This is where people ask whether the wine was intoxicating. The liberal has gone as far as to call Jesus a boot-legger. I'm not sure why people won't read the Bible instead of just guessing at everything. This does not say anything about alcohol intoxication or drunkenness. In the day we are studying, wine was a staple article of the diet. It is also true that drunkenness was thoroughly condemned in that society. Fermented edibles were strictly forbidden in religious ceremonies in Israel, you must recall. No thought of drunkenness is connected to this account, and this family believes and practices the Mosaic Law. I write over this wine label "NOT intoxicating;" but some people need something more substantial than what I write....

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1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

~ Denzell, in his commentary on John, says that ‘when Mary said to Jesus ‘they have no wine’ it was a subtle hint for Jesus and the disciples to depart.’ John Calvin says it was a “suggestion to occupy the minds of the guests with a discourse.” In other words, some think Mary was telling Jesus to lay one of His famous sermons on them; but Jesus hadn’t preached anything yet, so, I do not subscribe to either of these assertions. That is a typical Calvinistic view. If you have ever read his ‘Institute’ you’ll know the content can make one shudder! They are profound, no argument there; but if Calvin had been at this wedding, he would have given the discourse, I have no doubt. Well, Jesus wasn’t leaving, and He wasn’t interested in occupying the minds of these guests, either. Candidly, what Mary is suggesting is that Jesus perform a miracle! If any occasion were appropriate, this would be it.

When Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her she would be giving birth to the Messiah, it was Mary who raised the questions. She asked. “.... how can these things be?” Gabriel made it abundantly clear that the Holy Spirit would come over her. Mary knew it was a Holy Thing she had conceived. All during the life of Mary she had been under a dark and dangerous cloud! When Mary said, “.... behold the handmaid of the Lord,” that was simply a remarkable statement. Mary yielded to that; and the moment she did yield a cloud of question came over her that never lifted until Jesus was resurrected. Jesus was always in question with the people. What Mary is REALLY saying is: “.... this is Your opportunity to clear up this matter and clear the name of Your mother!” Mary is asking Jesus to demonstrate that she has been truthful and accurate about what she had been saying regarding her pregnancy all her life. Mary never changed her story that Jesus was virgin born, either....

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

~ Jesus is saying that this is not the occasion that will clear her name. Jesus will make that happen - but not now. When Jesus is on the cross and He looks down at Mary, He will say, "woman, behold thy Son!" THAT is when His hour comes. Only after Jesus is raised from the dead and they all meet three days later in the upper room could Mary look around and tell everyone, "... I told you so!" The resurrection proves Who He is AND it proves the virgin birth! Most look at the virgin birth as an isolated fact, but it is wholly and inseparably connected to the resurrection. Paul says Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness by His resurrection from the dead! Well, back here at the wedding, Mary is asking that Jesus do something to clear her name - right now....

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

~ Now, there's some good advice! This would make a very good mothers day sermon and the subject would be: a mother's advice. Well, it's good motherly advice to tell your children and friends and family that whatever Jesus says unto you – do it! The waterpots were used in ceremonial cleansing. I think this was a poor family and these water pots may have been beaten and battered. These pots were probably hidden from sight for the wedding. I feel it was an embarrassment for the family to have to drag them out of storage....

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

~ The argument over whether or not the wine was intoxicating is a huge satanic diversion to the real message of this account. Again, that's just not the issue here at all. Anyone trying to form an alcoholic argument one way or the other is simply entirely wrong. Moreover, the most important part of the wedding seems mysteriously absent. We have no indication of a bride or of a wedding gown! ALL brides are beautiful on that day as they come down the isle. At a wedding, no one seems very interested in the preacher; and they're not even really interested in the groom! Only his mother smiles at him! All eyes are on the bride, and everyone watches as she comes down the isle! Who are the bride and groom at this wedding in Canaan? We don't know because we aren't told; but here is something I believe is absolutely wonderful. The water in the pots was just water until Jesus scooped it out; only THEN did the water become wine. That's how this miracle took place.

You and I are just old banged up waterpots sitting covered in a corner. We're all beaten and battered, and we aren't very attractive, spiritually speaking. Most of us are only fit to be hidden out of sight most of the time. God should keep us all covered up, honestly; but, for some reason – God wants to use us! God fills us with the Word of God – that is – the Water! God wants to fill us up with the water of the Word of God so the Holy Spirit can come along and scoop some out and perform a holy miracle by turning it into wine for some poor wedding guest that needs refreshment! That's the wonder of the Word of God, friends. I don't know how it's done, and I don't know how to explain it – I don't know that it needs an explanation. I only know it IS done and that it takes place exactly like this! I like to think someone has been saved just reading these reports; but let's be real: God didn't get very much when you and I turned to Him – we're just common sinners. God got another old, battered water pot with me. When the Holy Spirit ladles it out is when the Word of God becomes the wine of joy! That's

when it will bring new happiness and new desires in life. Joy is the work of the Holy Spirit. We're told not to be filled with wine but to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

When God begins to use us, He will not be using the old talent you developed in this world – God will be filling you with the Water of the Word of Life – the Word of God. I see so many people who want to get out and be active for the Lord - but they never get around to Bible study. What God wants to do is fill you up with the Word of God so that HE can do something – not you! That's the reason I teach it like I do. I believe what you need today is the wine of joy! Nothing but the Word of God can bring true joy and peace into your life today, friends. This is not some Bible theory I am trying to make work – I know this to be true. I've seen too many transformed lives not to believe this is all exactly as it claims to be....

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him ~

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