

Sermon Text: John 2:1 – 11
Sermon Theme: Why are Jesus' Miracles Important to Me?

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹ This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

When we read a section of Scripture, a question we are to ask ourselves is: "What is the Lord teaching me in this part of his Word?" As we read through this account of the wedding at Cana, there are several different points that we are able to take from it. One is that marriage is a blessing from the Lord, and that as the Lord of the Home, Jesus wants to be there when a man and woman make their promises to each other. As we read in the liturgy for a Christian Wedding found in our hymnals, "Our Lord Jesus Christ came as an invited guest to the wedding at Cana, and with his gracious presence, he brought joy and gladness to those who were there. Jesus is also with us who have gathered in his name to celebrate with the Word of God and prayer [this] marriage."

Another point that we can make based on this section of God's Word is that Jesus was in complete control of when his ministry would begin. According to the customs of the day, the wedding celebration lasted several days, maybe up to a week and in some cases even a little longer than that. At some point, the hosts of the celebration ran out of wine. This would be a great embarrassment to the host family, and a great difficulty since clean drinking water was very difficult to find. So Mary came to Jesus, asking and expecting him to help. But, in a very gentle, yet firm way, Jesus reminds his earthly mother, "Dear woman, why do you involve me?...My time has not yet come." Perhaps Mary thought it was time for Jesus to begin showing people who he is. But what Jesus is telling Mary is that as the promised Savior he is control of when and where his ministry will begin. As we are told in Galatians chapter 4, "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."

One final point that is often times made from these verses is how the loving Lord provides for us. Answering the request for help, Jesus has the servants fill 6 large jars with water. Not only did Jesus provide the wine that was needed, he provided between 120 – 180 gallons of wine! In the prayer that Jesus himself taught us to pray, we ask, "Give us today our daily bread." The answer to that prayer for "daily bread" is often times much more than you or I need to get by for one day. Listen to how Psalm 65 makes this point, "Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion...O you who hear prayer...When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions...We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations...You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of

God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.”

While these are all important and valid points that can be drawn out from John chapter 2, the question we want to ask today is this: What is the main reason why the Holy Spirit led John to record this miracle of Jesus? Why are Jesus’ miracles important to me? We are told in the final verse that is before us, “This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.” In his Gospel, John records only a very small number of Jesus’ miracles, including this one at the wedding in Cana. But why does he write about any of Jesus’ miracles? Again, we will allow the Gospel writer John, as he is led by God the Holy Spirit, to answer that question. Turning to chapter 20 of his Gospel we read, “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” The miracles of Jesus do not create faith in him as the one and only Savior. Rather, they prove that Jesus is, as we confess about him in the Nicene Creed, “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God...of one being with the Father.”

Why is it so important that the promised Savior be true man, but that he is true God as well? First, let’s talk about the importance for you and me of Jesus being true man. By nature, you and I are sinful. Far too often we show that sin is still alive in our hearts as we say things that we shouldn’t say, or we do things that we shouldn’t do, and we even have thoughts that are contrary to God’s Word. This sin makes you and me guilty. The Bible is clear: you and I are not able to save ourselves. So we needed one who could serve as our substitute; one who could live, suffer, die and rise again in our place as one of us. And the Good News of God’s Word is that Jesus is that perfect substitute you and I need. In Hebrews chapter 4 we are told about Jesus that he “has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin.” In Romans chapter 5 we read, “Through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” Because Jesus was able to live a perfect life in our place, you and I are declared right with the one and only true God.

So, why is it so important that the promised Savior is not only true Man, but that he is true God as well? Psalm 49 tells us that “No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him – the ransom for a life is costly, no payment (that is, no payment made by you or me) is ever enough.” But what did John the Baptist say about Jesus? Remember when he pointed to Jesus and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” Jesus himself tells us, “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” As true man, Jesus died in your place and mine. As true God, Jesus’ death was the ransom price for all sins. In Hebrews chapter 7 we are told that Jesus is “holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens...He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

Why are Jesus’ miracles important to me? Because they prove that the baby born in Bethlehem is not just another cute child whose birthday we celebrate once a year. Rather, as we read in last week’s Gospel Lesson from Luke chapter 3, “When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’” Why are Jesus’ miracles important to me? Because they prove that he is who he claims to be: Jesus is your promised, perfect and all-powerful Savior sent from heaven for you. Rejoicing in the Good News that through the God-Man, Jesus, we enjoy the forgiveness of all of our sins, we join our voices with the great company of angels in heaven as they sing out in Revelation chapter 5, “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Amen.