The Gospel of John
**2.2—A LITTLE GLIMPSE OF GLORY– JOHN 2:5–11**

**INTRODUCTION**

For 30 years Jesus lived as a human being in relative obscurity, and even when John the Baptist identified Him as the Son of God, there was nothing discernably divine about Him. But in the opening 11 verses of John chapter two, His glory was clearly revealed when He turned water into wine. The fact that He did so—in a matter of seconds—was impossible, and therefore a true miracle, but was there more significance to this first sign of Jesus. And if so, what does it tell us that He wants to do for us today?

**Let’s read John 2:1–11.**

**John 2:1–11 (ESV)** On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. **3** When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” **4** And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” **5** His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” **6** Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. **8** And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. **9** 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 **10** 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.” **11** This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**BEFORE I SHARE WHAT THE LORD SHOWED ME FROM THIS PASSAGE, LET ME SHARE SOME HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND THAT WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND IT BETTER**

**WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US TODAY?**

V11 – “Jesus … **manifested His glory (doxa)**”

* How exactly was His glory manifested?
* Was it solely that a miracle was performed? That’s certainly what made it supernatural.
* Or was there more to the manifestation of His glory that benefitted those for whom it was performed?
* And what is God saying to us today from this passage?

V3 – “When the wine ran out”

* It didn’t say the food ran out … or the water … we later see they had plenty of water. It said “the wine ran out.” It was certainly an important part of the event, but it’s not like people are starving to death.
* It’s a wedding … the wine represented a celebration … a time to enjoy some of our prosperity. So when they ran out of wine, the celebration would be a little less enjoyable … and the host family would be seen as not so prosperous.
* The point is … this was not about people “starving,” but rather about people “enjoying.”

**V5 – “Do whatever He tells you.”**

V6 – “six stone water jars there … each holding twenty or thirty gallons”

V7 – “They filled them to the brim”

* That’s between 120 & 180 gallons of wine
* I looked this up … one gallon of wine can fill five wine bottles
* So Jesus provided this not-so-wealthy family somewhere between 600 & 900 bottles of wine
* Dr. Steve Schell shares in his commentary that Donald Stamps (the General Editor of the Full Life Study Bible) said in the Fire Bible, Global Study Edition (on pages 1911–1912) that “in that culture wine was normally diluted with water before it was drunk: one part wine to three parts water.”
	+ If that’s the case, 600–900 bottles of wine would become the equivalent of 2400-3600 bottles
* I looked up … each standard bottle of wine has five glasses or servings
	+ That’s 3,000–4,500 servings if not diluted
	+ 12,000–18,000 servings if diluted with water

Vv8–10 – (V10) “until now.”

* The feast was drawing toward a conclusion, so a very small amount of this wine would be consumed

**QUESTION: WHY DID JESUS MAKE SO MUCH WINE?**

**ANSWER: HE WAS MANIFESTING HIS GLORY… GOD’S GLORY PROVIDES ABUNDANTLY**

* **Psalm 23:5 – “my cup runs over”… or ESV “my cup overflows”**
* **Joel 2:24 (ESV)** The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
* **Isaiah 6:1–3 (ESV)** In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
* We saw this happen in Luke 5 with the catch of fish that filled two boats to the point of sinking
* **Psalm 19:1 (ESV)** **The heavens** declare the glory of God, and **the sky above** proclaims his handiwork.
	+ There are an estimated 100–400 billion stars … just in our own Milky Way Galaxy
	+ In 2021, data from NASA's [New Horizons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Horizons) space probe was used to revise the previous estimate of 2 trillion galaxies down to roughly 200 billion galaxies … in our observable universe (2×1011).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galaxy#cite_note-7)
* **Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV)** For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord **as the waters cover the sea**.
	+ It’s estimated that there are 352 quintillion gallons of water on earth… that’s 352 million trillion.
	+ That’s over 45 billion gallons of water for each person on planet earth

**WHAT’S THE POINT? YOU DON’T NEED GOD TO EXERT ANY GREAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO PROVIDE YOUR FINANCIAL NEEDS … YOU JUST NEED A SMALL GLIMPSE OF GOD’S GLORY**

**BUT WAIT … THERE’S MORE…**

VV9–10 – “you’ve kept the good wine until now”

* Jesus didn’t just provide them with cheap liquor-store wine … He provided them with fine wine (how many of you think it was very high quality?)

**SO … GOD’S GLORY NOT ONLY BROUGHT GREAT QUANTITY … IT BROUGHT EXTRAORDINARY QUALITY.**

* **James 1:17 (ESV)** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above…
* **Psalm 84:11 (ESV)** … No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
* **Matthew 7:11 (ESV)** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!
* **Psalm 34:10 (NKJV)** The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.
* **Psalm 147:14 (ESV)** … he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

**SO GOD’S GLORY NOT ONLY PROVIDED THIS FAMILY WITH A MIRACLE … IT PROVIDED THEM WITH EXTRAORDINARY ABUNDANCE … AND IT PROVIED THEM WITH QUALITY THAT WAS STAMPED “GOD’S GLORY”**

**CONCLUSION – SO HOW DO MIRACLES LIKE THIS HAPPEN?**

V5 – “Do whatever He tells you.”

V7 – “Fill the jars with water … and they filled them to the brim.”

V8 – “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast. So they took it.”

* Required obedience
* Required some work
* Required some faith
* Didn’t make sense

**WHAT IS JESUS TELLING YOU TO DO?**

* It will require obedience
* It may require some work
* It will require some faith
* And it may not make any sense