

John 2:1-12

Profession versus Possession

John 2:1-12 (HCSB)

The First Sign: Turning Water into Wine

¹ On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and ² Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding as well. ³ When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother told Him, "They don't have any wine."

⁴ "What has this concern of yours to do with Me, woman?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵ "Do whatever He tells you," His mother told the servants.

⁶ Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained 20 or 30 gallons.

⁷ "Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then He said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the chief servant." And they did.

⁹ When the chief servant tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom ¹⁰ and told him, "Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people have drunk freely, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now."

¹¹ Jesus performed this first sign in Cana of Galilee. He displayed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

¹² After this, He went down to Capernaum, together with His mother, His brothers, and His disciples, and they stayed there only a few days.

Gene Getz Video

Hyperlink

<http://www2.bhpublishinggroup.com/QR/GetzBible/1108/>

Lesson Principle

As those who profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we should make sure it is a belief that has truly resulted in eternal life.

Lesson Reflection

How does Philip's experience illustrate the process of belief that leads to a salvation experience?

Video Recap

Because of John the Baptist's ministry in the Jerusalem area, he was eventually arrested and imprisoned when he confronted King Herod with an act of adultery.

- As tension grew, Jesus left for Galilee with these men who would eventually be called to be a part of His apostolic team.
 - Though He took up residence in Capernaum, He may have made a quick stop in Nazareth, His hometown, and then proceeded on to Cana to attend a wedding.
 - It was there Jesus performed His first miracle, which John has recorded as one of the seven signs he selected to demonstrate that “*Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing [we] May have life in His name*”.

Video Recap (continued)

As a result of this miraculous sign, Jesus' “*disciples believed in Him*”.

- These were probably the same men—Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathaniel—who had confessed faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God several days before.
 - However, here in Cana they took another step in their developing and growing faith,
 - the theme that flows through John's entire Gospel.

Video Recap (continued)

John recorded this event to demonstrate that not all statements of faith result in eternal life.

- It's one thing to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.
 - Yet, it's another to believe in such a way that we “*have life in His name*”.
 - In actuality, we're not told when each one of these men took this final step, but
 - When we come to the end of John's Gospel, we can be sure it had happened.

Disciple Study Bible

DSB 2:1-11 JESUS CHRIST, Miracles

There is a notable shift of terms, meaning, and frequency of Jesus' mighty works from the Synoptic Gospels to the Fourth Gospel.

- In the first three Gospels the miracles are called *dunameis*, mighty works or, miracles.
 - Their primary significance is to demonstrate the power of the kingdom of God.
 - Such mighty works occur frequently in the Synoptics.
 - John's designation for the mighty works is *sign* (*semeion*).
 - Jesus' term is *work* (Greek *ergon*; 17:4).
 - Even the words of Jesus, in John, are part of His work (14:10).

DSB 2:1-11 JESUS CHRIST, Miracles (cont)

The signs in John are symbolic acts signifying what God will ultimately do for the redeemed.

- The signs in John's Gospel are accompanied with discourses or explanations of their meaning.
 - There are only seven signs in John
 - (2:1-11; 4:46-54; 5:1-9; 6:5-13; 6:19-21; 9:1-41; 11:1-44).

DSB 2:1-11 JESUS CHRIST, Miracles (cont)

The signs point readers to faith in Christ so they may participate in eternal life.

- The first sign shows the water of purification so central to Jewish practice replaced by wine, the symbol of Jesus' blood.
 - Jesus is the only way to purification before God.
 - Ritual will not work.
 - In Jesus, God's kingdom has entered the world revealing God's glory.

DSB 2:1-11 MIRACLE, Vocabulary

John emphasized Jesus' miracles as signs revealing Jesus' glory, His magnificent divine presence.

- Such revelation leads disciples to faith.
- This is the first of Seven major signs in John's Gospel prior to the resurrection.

- Such signs were not overwhelming proofs accepted by all people who witnessed them.
- Some people simply sought further miraculous works for their own selfish needs.
- Some wanted the sign power used to restore political power and domination to Israel.

DSB 2:1-11 MIRACLE, Vocabulary (cont)

Some saw the signs as blasphemy and sought to kill Jesus for them.

- Only faith could recognize Jesus' divine glory in the signs.
 - In His glory we see Him as He is-the only Son from the Father.
 - This glory is not revealed in political power but in the sacrificial death on the cross and in the resurrection.
 - In Jesus we have the best that God can give us.
 - He surpasses all other revelations.
 - Religion which does not center in faith in Christ is false because
 - It ignores God's Best.

DSB 2:1-11 CHRISTIAN ETHICS, Alcohol

This incident, the first of Jesus' messianic signs, shows Jesus easily fitting into the enjoyment of the occasion of the Cana wedding,

- Jesus provides the drink expected at the messianic banquet and
 - Replaces the water of purification in the Jewish rituals with the choicest drink of His time.
 - He provides abundantly for the people as was expected in the last days.

Questions and Comments

With time remaining, let's discuss:

How does Philip's experience illustrate the process of belief that leads to a salvation experience?