

***“Jesus Changes The Ordinary Into The Extraordinary” by Pastor Ed Terry***  
Galatians 5: 16 – 26; John 10: 1 – 18; John 15: 5 – 12; **John 2: 1 - 11(Sermon)**  
***SERMON: Delivered 08 04 19***

In the Gospel of John, John refers to miracles as signs.

A signs point us to the real thing.

A Biblical sign is a miraculous act that reveals a spiritual truth about the character of God.

A sign is different from a miracle in that a sign emphasizes the significance of the act rather than the marvel of the act itself.

Remember a sign points to the real thing.

In this miracle Jesus reveals His majesty and His glory.

The purpose of this miracle was so His disciples would believe that He was God in the flesh.

Verse 11 tells us this was the first of Jesus’ miraculous signs.

It is significant that Jesus performed His first miraculous sign ***“on the third day”*** and that Jesus’ last great miracle occurred ***“on the third day”*** when Jesus rose from the tomb

Jewish weddings in Jesus’ day were major social events and the wedding celebration lasted for several days.

Since Cana was a relatively small town, we can assume most of the town people were invited.

John tells us that everybody was enjoying the celebration when Jesus’ mother came to Jesus and said, ***“They have no more wine.”***

This situation was a major embarrassment for the bridegroom.

In fact some commentaries state that running out of wine during the wedding celebration was grounds for legal action by the bride’s family.

Jesus’ answer to Mary is in verse 4 is, ***“... woman, why do you involve me?”***

Remember Jesus came as a guest; it was not Jesus’ responsibility to provide the wine.

Then Jesus said, ***“My time has not yet come.”***

Jesus was on a divine schedule.

Jesus came to earth to die for the sins of all men.

Since Jeremiah, Hosea, and Amos characterized the Messianic age as a time when wine would flow liberally Jesus was likely referring to the fact that the cross must come before the blessing of the Millennial Age. (Jeremiah 31:12; Hosea 14:7; and Amos 9:13-14)

Weddings have always been a joyous occasion.

And to the Jewish people, wine symbolized joy.

Without wine there would be no joy at this wedding.

Then in verse 5 Jesus' mother tells the servants ***“do whatever He tells you.”***

Jesus instructed the servants to fill the six stone jars to the brim with water and then to take some to the master of the banquet to taste.

Verse 10 tells us the master of the banquet was surprised when he tasted the new wine because it was so much better than the wine previously served.

From the way John records this event we have to assume that most people at the wedding **never** knew what happened.

They were too busy enjoying themselves to notice what was going on and they were not expecting a miracle.

Sadly most of us are like that most of the time.

One of the greatest sins for most Christians is not recognizing The Lord at work in their everyday life.

You see Jesus is in the business of changing the ordinary into the extraordinary.

From the book of Acts we see that the early church was full of excitement and expectation.

Christians in the first century willingly endured persecution and death because they expected Jesus to return at any moment.

Sadly, today many of us have lost our sense of excitement and expectations about Jesus' return.

You see if we don't look for and expect Jesus to work miracles in our daily life we will miss the miracles Jesus performs all around us.

What about you; Do you routinely ask and expect The Lord to reveal Himself at your job site, in your children, in your home, and / or while you are driving? .

How often do you properly prepare for Sunday worship by asking God to speak to you through the music, the prayer of confession, the Scripture reading, the sermon, the offering, and the fellowship time?

Did you come here today expecting to have a personal encounter with the living God?

If we don't expect God to appear or to speak to us in the ordinary events of our day, chances are, we will be just as clueless as the guests were at the wedding in Cana.

Are you expecting the extraordinary in the ordinary?

This miracle of Jesus turning water into wine is important because it reminds us that miracles happen when we believe that Jesus cares about our everyday needs.

This miracle is important because the empty jars are to remind us of the emptiness of our life before Jesus came into our life and changed us.

This miracle is important because it reminds us that Jesus does **not** just meet our needs.

Jesus gives us more than enough.

Imagine 180 gallons of wine.

In John 10:10 Jesus said, "***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***"

There is no limit to God's grace, God's love, God's forgiveness, or God's blessings.

This miracle is important because it reminds us that Jesus came to change the ordinary in our life into the extraordinary.

Jesus did not come just to give us information.

Jesus came to transform peoples' lives.

Jesus did not come just to bring new ideas.

Jesus came to make new people.

Jesus did not come to rearrange your life.  
Jesus wants to transform your life.

This miracle is important because it reminds us that wherever Jesus is there is life and joy.

This miracle is important because it shows us our God is a God of joy and He wants us to be joyful.

Many of Jesus' miracles reduced suffering but this miracle is about bringing joy into our lives.

Jesus said, ***"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*** (John 15:11)

This miracle is important because it contrast the emptiness of ritualistic worship with the fullness of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This miracle is important because it reminds us that the best is yet to come.

Sadly most people mourn the passing of each stage in their life and they wallow in nostalgia.

But for the Christian the best is yet to come.

Physical death is truly our reward because it takes the believer into heaven where we are in the presence of our Creator God throughout eternity.

The closer we walk with The Lord in this life, the more we experience His unconditional love and His unlimited power, and His unlimited provisions.

You see Jesus is in the business of turning water into wine, sinners into saints, fear into courage, sorrow into joy, defeat into victory, despair into hope, and death into life.

We do not want to miss the symbolism in this account of Jesus changing water into wine.

The water jars were for ceremonial washing.

The jars are symbolic of the Mosaic Law and its inability to make a person truly clean.

After ceremonial washing a person was clean on the outside but they did not necessarily have a clean heart.

The wedding feast is symbolic of the celebration of our new life in Christ.

Just as a man and a woman are joined together in marriage we are joined in a personal relationship with Jesus when we accept Jesus as our Savior and we chose to make Jesus our Lord.

The Bible refers to the church as The Bride Of Christ. (Matthew 25: 1 – 13 & Revelation 21:9)

Our life in Christ should be like a honeymoon that never ends.

The running out of wine is symbolic of an empty spiritual life.

When our spiritual life is empty our praise lacks passion, our testimony is timid, and our witness is weak.

This is also an indictment against any church that is not totally focused on Jesus.

When there is a lack of love, joy, peace, and hope we need to do what Mary did – turn to Jesus and do whatever He tells us to do.

The water jars are vessels and they are also symbolic of our bodies – empty vessels ready to be filled by our Lord and ready to be used by our Lord.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:19 says, “***Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?***”

The water in the jars is symbolic of The Old Covenant Of Law and the water was made alive when Jesus changed the water into wine symbolizing The New Covenant Of Grace.

In Revelation 21:5 Jesus said, “***I am making everything new.***”

When we accept Jesus our sins are not just taken away.  
Jesus changes our heart so we can love Him and so we can live for Him.

The new wine that was served is symbolic of the love, the peace, the joy, and the hope that every believer should be experiencing in Christ Jesus.

The guests at the wedding are symbolic of the people around us.

The servants in this miracle are representative of each of us since as Christians we are called to be servants of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Mary’s advice to the servants is good advice for us today; “***do whatever He tells you to do***”.

If the servants had not done what Jesus said to do the water probably would not have been changed into wine.

When we fail to do what Jesus tells us to do we will miss out on the miracles that Jesus wants to perform through us.

When the disciples saw this miracle verse 11 tells us they believed in Jesus.

Believing in Jesus is more than words. Belief means putting that belief into action by trusting, obeying, and serving.

In John 20:30 and 31 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.”*

Our worship service is designed to provide an atmosphere where it is easy for everyone to experience the presence of the Living God.

And this morning is special in that we have the privilege of celebrating the Sacrament of Communion.

When we properly prepare ourselves for the Sacrament of Communion and when we truly believe our Lord’s promise that He will be with us, we will experience the Living Lord in our presence.

So I ask you, are you excited about receiving communion today?

What are your expectations?

Are you expecting an encounter with our Lord this morning?

Or will our celebration of communion just be an empty ritual for you?

God’s Word to us today challenges us to come to the Lord’s Table expecting to feel God’s presence with you and expecting to hear God speak to you.

Come expecting Jesus to change the ordinary events in your life into extraordinary opportunities to serve Jesus our Lord and Savior. **AMEN**