

Sunday School Notes for 5 February 2023: The wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

When Jesus came to earth, it was necessary to show people that he was God as well as human so God's power flowed out in miracles of healing, of feeding, and of resurrection. John quite rightly decided not to refer to these as 'miracles' but as "signs" that proved that Jesus was God's Son, the Messiah who the Jews had waited for over thousands of years..

The first sign took place at a wedding in Cana. Things were going badly wrong at this wedding. There wasn't enough to drink! This wasn't necessarily anyone's fault. In those days weddings celebrations went on for about 5 days and everybody and anybody could come along. So no one knew how many people needed to be fed and drink. And there weren't shops around the corner where people could just go and buy the extras they needed.

Yet it was very embarrassing for the poor bridegroom as it suggested that he wouldn't be a good provider to his wife or maybe even that he was stingy!

It seems that Jesus' mother, Mary, knew the family well for the servants told her what was happening and she asked Jesus to help. He knew that the only way he could help was through a miracle and he waited until he was sure that it was the right time to show his power.

Then he acted. Outside were 5 or 6 huge water jars that had been emptied earlier. Jesus got the servants to fill them with water again from the well. These jars could each hold about 400 cupfuls of water. The servants probably thought Jesus was wasting their time, but they obeyed him – perhaps because Mary had told them to listen to him.

Jesus' next instruction sounded even crazier. He told the servants to take a cupful of the water to the master of ceremonies (the person in charge of the wedding feast) so he could taste it. Really! "We all know what water tastes like don't we?" they might have whispered to each other. But as they carried it, they realised this water had changed colour and that it smelt different. What was happening?

When the leader of the feast tasted the liquid, he called the bridegroom over. Perhaps the poor man expected to be scolded. Instead he was told that this was the best wine of the feast – the wine which was normally served first!

Jesus had shown that, although he was a man, he was also Creator God! He had created wine out of well water! What an amazing sign to everyone!