

Read John 2:1-11. Jesus' first sign in John's Gospel begins not with dazzling spectacle but with a quiet, familiar action: the drawing of water. This type of moment was used in the Old Testament often to prepare the way for divine intervention: e.g. how Rebekah is found for Isaac by Abraham's servant, Moses meeting Zipporah during an act of service, or David longing for water from Bethlehem's well while hiding from Saul. These scenes carry undertones of expectancy. Likewise, John chooses to begin his curation of Jesus' signs with one involving the drawing of water, signaling to us that God is about to intervene in a big way! (*compare John 4:7-26*).

The water jars at Cana were used for the ceremonial washings. While these rituals could cleanse hands and feet, they were unable to purify the heart or rescue people from sin. Prophets like Jeremiah, Hosea, and Amos had used the imagery of abundant harvest and flowing wine to depict the time of the New Testament. When Jesus transforms water meant for outward cleansing into wine, He quietly reveals the inadequacy of the old and the arrival of the new. A greater covenant has begun. What the prophets foresaw is now present in the person of Jesus Christ. The law could diagnose sin, but only Jesus could remove it.

It is possible that the bride and groom were relatives or close friends of Mary. In a culture where hospitality was tied to family honor, running out of wine would have brought deep embarrassment. Mary feels the weight of this looming shame and turns to Jesus. But Jesus – while caring about the immediate need – reveals a deeper mission: “My hour has not yet come.” In John's Gospel, “hour” consistently refers to Jesus' sacrificial death. Jesus did not come simply to rescue a wedding feast from awkwardness; He came because humanity had no means to save itself from sin. He cares about our daily struggles, but He is always moving toward the cross, the place where His glory is fully revealed.

Life is sweeter with Jesus in it, but John wants us to see more than the sweetness. This sign proclaims that the Messianic Age has arrived, that God's climactic intervention in history has begun. Salvation, redemption, and true life flow from Christ, the One who brings a better covenant and a better joy. The wine at Cana was excellent, but it was only a sign pointing to the fullness of grace found in Jesus Himself.

Prayerfully consider: Where do you need Jesus' transforming power; not just to ease life's pressures, but to reshape your heart? And how might you live today with renewed joy, knowing that the One who brings true life has already come?

Weekly Memory Verse:

“No one has seen God at any time; God the only Son,
who is in the arms of the Father, He has explained Him.”

John 1:18

Weekly Affirmation:

**I WILL LET JESUS
TRANSFORM MY HEART**

DECEMBER 2025 GROWTH GOALS

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| <input type="radio"/> Read the Gospel of John | <input type="radio"/> Memorize one of the weekly memory verses. |
| <input type="radio"/> Watch the Bible Project video on John
(<i>available on the website</i>). | <input type="radio"/> Pray for someone face to face, pray for them on a
phone call, or write out your prayer to give them in
a note or text. |