

THE TASTE OF NEW WINE

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Wine is an important ingredient of the Scriptures not only as staple for everyday life and especially for festive occasions such as weddings but also as a spiritual symbol. Wine and oil are both often mentioned together in the Scriptures and in prophecy such as “pour in the oil and wine of the anointing.” And as we learn in John 2 regarding Jesus’ first miracle where He turned approximately 170 gallons of water into wine—as well as other scriptures such as the parable of the old and new wineskins where Jesus referred to *wine* as being symbolic of covenant.

I’ve written before in *The Gifts and Operations of the Holy Spirit* and other articles something you need to understand here before we continue. Wine is also symbolic of prophetic stimulation in the Scriptures. So with this in mind we need to read John 2 with the Eye of the Eagle and understand the importance of Jesus’ first miracle.

Jesus' first two miracles occurred in Cana, a city in Galilee, among what we would term the common people and not in Jerusalem among the religious elite of His day. The Lord's life and ministry was not what most people of His time thought it would be had He been the genuine Messiah. This is a principle we need to understand because God nearly always works differently and manifests His answers in ways we do not understand or look for. And, as I've preached and written many times, I've learned from the Scriptures as well as our own ministry that the Lord often will send a physical sign that contradicts the spiritual sign He is sending.

Now in John 2:1 isn't it interesting that this *first* of Jesus' miracles occurred "on the third day." This was a physical wedding but there's another wedding that will soon be consummated also "on the third day" and that is the wedding of the Bride and Groom in Heaven. We're now in the Seventh and last Church Age and in the *third day* of the Church so we can expect to be "raised up so that we may live in his presence" as prophesied in Hosea. Praise the Lord!

Mary, Jesus and His disciples were attending this wedding in Cana when a strange thing happened—they ran out of wine. Now this was a very embarrassing event for the master of a wedding banquet and it would cast reproach on

him and his guests if it were not rectified. Mary knew the customs of her day and although the Bible does not tell us why they ran out of wine she was concerned about this embarrassment because she cared for people.

But we should also note an important fact of these verses of Scripture: even though Jesus had not performed any miracles yet Mary obviously knew who He was and that He was capable of intervening and changing things. Praise the Lord! Jesus is always able to intervene in any situation of your life where you might feel helpless or hopeless! He is a “game changer” and He can change your life and circumstances if you will have faith.

Mary turned to her son and simply said: “They have no more wine.” But the implication is: “Jesus, do something about it.” Now Jesus’ reply is interesting because it shows that He was fully controlled by the Holy Spirit and He knew the importance of God’s timing—we need to learn this as well. Timing is important to God because often He has spent years of preparation with the angels and different people in order to bring a series of events or answers to prayer to pass.

Jesus responded to His mother—“My time has not yet come.” Yet we see that He performed this miracle anyway

and it is no doubt the most important miracle He performed because of its prophetic implications. Remember, it had been 400 years since the time of Malachi before a prophet began a work among God's covenant people and now—in short order—two had appeared, John the Baptist and now Jesus of Nazareth. Interestingly, when we read and meditate in the Gospels we learn that there were many of the Jews who understood the connection between Malachi's prophecy of a “forerunner” (John the Baptist) to the Messiah and thus they were quick to recognize Jesus as the Messiah when He began His ministry because—as Nicodemus noted—“we know you are a man sent from God for no one could perform the miracles you are doing if God were not with him.”

I've preached and written for years that when God wants to change history He births a baby—a Moses, David or Esther. And the time in which Jesus began His ministry was similar to another time of Israel's history when God birthed a baby named Samuel. In fact, Samuel is a “type” of Jesus in that he was a prophet, priest and judge (he could have been Israel's first king had he not known that it was not God's will for them to have a king) although Samuel was a descendant of the tribe of Levi—the priestly tribe—and not Judah and although there were other prophets, e.g., Abraham, Moses, and others before Samuel he is often referred to as the

beginning of the prophets. (cf. especially Acts 3:24 where Peter is prophesying: “all the prophets from Samuel on”).

But the word records in 1 Samuel 3:1 an important fact similar to when Jesus began His ministry: “In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions”).

Now because we have the Eye of the Eagle and know that wine represents prophetic stimulation we can understand that—even though there had not been a prophet in Israel in 400 years Jesus’ ministry was going to usher in a new time of not only miracles but also *prophetic stimulation* so that the people would be able to understand that this “new wine” which was demonstrably better than the old was symbolic of the New Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah and others. Under this new covenant God’s Temple would be the spirit of man and not a building. Praise the Lord!

Jesus’ first miracle demonstrated that though they had run out of prophetic stimulation Jesus would bring fresh, new and markedly better “wine” and prophetic stimulation through His preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom. We should also not lose sight of the fact that the stage for this first miracle was a wedding—the leaving of an old family for a new. In fact, everything about this first miracle speaks about the new—the new thing God was doing. And let us not

forget the reaction of the master of the banquet when he tasted this “new wine.” He recognized that this new wine was better: “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.” He did not realize that he was prophesying about the New Covenant or that the Messiah was standing there.

We are privileged to be living in the closing hours of human history just before the real wedding takes place in Heaven while God pours out His wrath upon sin-sick, crying dying humanity. Please don't forget to give God thanks every day for saving you and blessing you. And don't forget to be about His business every day as Jesus demonstrated with His life when He walked the earth. Remember, we are saved to serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and He never said it was going to be easy to live in these days when nations, especially our own, are crumbling around us and the financial system of the whole world is about to fail.

Remember these words of the Lord Jesus who was “the faithful witness”: “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Rev. 2:10)