

Last week we began a new series studying Jesus' use of signs in John's gospel. This series will allow us to discover the power of God and point us to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. Last week Dr. Baucom focused on the ultimate sign—the resurrection. This week we go back to the beginning of John's gospel and look at the first sign from the public ministry of Jesus.

1. How did Dr. Baucom differentiate a *sign* from a *miracle*? Does that make sense to you?

2. **Read John 2:1-11.** What does the last verse say about the role of signs in Jesus' ministry?

3. This passage is about Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding in the town of Cana. The title of this week's sermon is "*Lord of Nature.*"

- Why do you think Dr. Baucom chose that title for this passage?
- How does this sign show Jesus as having power over the natural world order?

4. Notice which individuals John mentions in **verses 1 and 2** as being present at the wedding.

- Why did John mention the disciples as being present? Look at **verse 11** again to see the impact this sign had on the disciples.
- Who are the main participants in this incident?

5. Notice the interchange between Jesus and his mother in **verses 3-5.**

- Does it seem that Mary might have forced Jesus' hand at this point?
- When Jesus first answers Mary he says that his "hour has not yet come." Look at **John 4:23; 5:25; 7:30; 8:20; 13:1; and 17:1** to see some other uses of this term in this gospel. How are these various uses of *hour* similar and different?

6. **Read John 2:6.** What was the purpose of the stone pots? How might Jesus' use of these particular pots be significant in relation to his own life and ministry?

7. **Read John 2:9-11.** What did the headwaiter indicate about the wine Jesus had made from the water? What might this be interpreted to mean about Jesus himself

8. Simple Questions:

- What might we learn about human nature from this *sign*?
- What might this *sign* tell us about our common needs?
- What is this sign telling us about Jesus?

9. Where else is wine found in the gospels? For example, look at **Matthew 9:17** to see what Jesus has to say about new wine and old wineskins.

Last Sunday, Columbia @Crossroads worshiped together for the first time. Pray that Ignition Groups will begin to function there and through all the congregations of Columbia as a means of adult spiritual growth and to build authentic community in this church body.