

SEVEN SIGNS
#2: Lord of Nature
April 22-24, 2006

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁴"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "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." ¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples put their faith in him. ¹²After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

John 2:1-12 TNIV

Introduction: The Gospel of John is a presentation of seven signs that Jesus is Lord, and the first of those signs is Jesus' first miracle at the Cana wedding. When Jesus changed water into wine, he "revealed his glory" by demonstrating his power over nature.

- I. The Mother and the Mission
 - A. Jesus' mother seems to have had two concerns.
 1. She was concerned that the party go well.
 2. She was concerned that her son emerge the hero.
 - B. Jesus seems to have had three conditions.
 1. He wanted to honor his mother, but only if it were clear that his first allegiance was to his Father.
 2. He wanted to demonstrate his identity to his disciples, but only if he could wait to inform everyone else.
 3. He wanted to help his friends, but only if he could do it in a way consistent with his messianic mission.
 - C. Jesus expressed his independence from his family and used the opportunity to provide a sign to his closest followers.
- II. The Water and the Wine
 - A. The six ceremonial jars represent the incompleteness of the Jewish ceremonial system.

- B. Filling the six jars with water from a seventh "clean" source (a well) represents the completion of the Jewish faith.
 - C. The master of the banquet represents a Jewish priest, a master of the temple.
 - D. The best wine offered at the end of the party represents the coming messianic age, the era of redemption.
- III. The Sign and the Statement
 - A. Jesus was careful not to perform the water to wine miracle in a way that would draw attention to the act or prematurely reveal his identity to the masses.
 - B. The master of the banquet did not realize that Jesus had performed a miracle, nor did the servants understand.
 - C. The master of the banquet is confused, in fact, to see the fine wine arrive near the end of the feast.
 - D. However, the disciples saw that Jesus was revealing his glory, and they "put their faith in him."
- IV. The Miracle and the Message
 - A. Jesus is the Lord of nature, able to rule the creation made through him.

He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. *John 12-3*
 - B. We should begin to see Jesus' miracles not as cessations of natural law, per se, but as restorations of nature as God intended.
 - C. In this instance, Jesus simply hastens a process that is part of God's miraculous provision in everyday life.
 - D. Religion is of no consequence apart from personal relationship with Creator God.
 - E. God's "everyday provision" for relationship with him is His incarnation in Jesus Christ.
 - F. We can never force God's hand, but we can always trust Him to act faithfully in His own time.
 - G. Very often, God saves the very best for last.

Conclusion: The signs of Jesus' Lordship are plain to those with "ears to hear and eyes to see," but those with closed minds and hearts often miss the work of God all around them. When God wants to speak to us, he still reveals himself in carefully targeted ways to accomplish his purposes.

NOTES:
