

New Testament Church
The Book of John #3 – John 2:1-12 – The Miracle of Marriage
January 18, 2026 - Pastor Paul Jehle

- I A review of John, Chapter 1 - Why expository preaching and why the Book of John at this time?
- A. Expository preaching brings depth, continuity and helps a congregation study together
 - 1. John reveals Christ as God – (eagle) - “behold your God” (Is. 40:9)
 - 2. The gospels reveal the “four faces” of Christ – king, servant, man, eagle
 - B. John, the author John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Revelation was a disciple of John the Baptist
 - 1. One of the sons of Zebedee (Salome his mother), a fisherman with Simon & Andrew
 - 2. ***John began as a critic but learned the balance of truth, grace and love...***
 - C. We face a time right now when believers are called to be light in the midst of darkness
 - 1. We are called to be the stability in a time of chaos and increased hatred / violence
 - 2. The Gospel of John is a book that depicts *how to be light in the midst of darkness*
 - D. The main theme in John chapter 1 is that **Jesus is the Light that shines in Darkness**
 - 1. Jesus is the light of our lives as well as the light of the world!
 - 2. Other themes involve the ***creation***, how God ***prepares us to receive Him***, the virgin birth and ***our new birth are miraculous***, and the ***incarnation*** brings ***grace and truth***
- II The miracle of Marriage – John 2:1-11 – Son of God (divinity) and Son of Man (humanity)
- A. The teachings of Jesus in John ***demonstrate what life is like as part of our new creation.***
 - 1. The “signs” tell us what life in Christ actually means in the midst of humanity
 - 2. The “first” in the sense of pointing to where miracles begin – at home... practical needs
 - B. Biblical Marriage in context – the **first sphere** of Kingdom dominion is the **home**
 - 1. Genesis 2:24 – *leave, cleave and become one flesh* – initiated by God with us!
 - a. Marriage is the norm yet God calls some to be single (Matthew 19:10-12)
 - b. The Jews fasted before it, confessing sins, regarding it as a Sacrament (holy)
 - 2. Marriage was the earthly fulfillment of *His Kingdom coming from heaven to home*
 - a. Jehovah’s marriage to Israel and Christ’s marriage to the Church (equally yoked)
 - b. The meaning of “betrothal” and the process of courtship (testing)
 - C. v. 1-2 – Jesus, his mother, and the five disciples were called to attend a wedding in Cana
 - 1. “The third day” means the third day after Nathaniel became a disciple
 - 2. Most likely, the couple were relatives of Mary and Jesus (a kinsman)
 - D. v. 3-5 – Running out of wine at a marriage feast (3 to 7 days of hospitality from the couple)
 - 1. Marriage and wine are symbols of joy and fulfillment “on earth as it is in heaven”
 - 2. Alcoholic wine in Jesus’ day is different than today – at most 2.5% then; now 9-11%
 - 3. Jesus addresses his mother (humanity) with respect – “woman” (“lady, queen”)
 - 4. “Mine hour is not yet come” refers to His divinity and death/resurrection, not a miracle
 - E. v. 6-8 – Fill 6 purification waterpots (washing before meals, feet upon arrival) - humanity
 - 1. Each pot could hold between 17 and 25 gallons – total capacity up to 150 gallons
 - 2. Jesus turned water (6 - humanity) into new wine (7 - divinity) - needs into blessings
 - 3. Jesus would not have produced a stumblingblock for drunkenness with “old wine”
 - F. v. 9-11 – Saving the best for last – the last temple, the last generation (Mt. 13:40-43)!
 - 1. The “governor” or master of ceremonies talks to the bridegroom first, then the people
 - 2. The “servants” (not slaves) knew about the miracle – but others’ may not have yet...
 - 3. “The beginnings of miracles” means first in **priority** – ***God’s glory begins at home!***

Facts about the use of alcohol

- By definition alcohol is addictive and has been defined as a gateway drug.
- It is a depressant that destroys healthy cells with every drink.
- Due to its fermentation, it is drinking toxins that damage the liver, kidney and brain.
- It draws out the water in your system, causing you to be more thirsty and thus need more.
- It slows down your involuntary nervous system, directly affecting your breathing and gag reflex.
- It penetrates the blood-brain barrier destroying brain cells with every sip.¹

The alcohol and “strong drink” of the Bible is not the same as Today

- The new wine of Bible times had no fermentation and no alcoholic content
- When mixed with water, the fermentation level was diluted and had little effect as an intoxicant.
- Old wine (or strong drink) of Bible times had a fermentation level of less than 2.5%.
- This would be considered as a sub-alcoholic drink today.
- This drink was called “purified water” up through the early 1800’s.

Compare this with today’s alcoholic drinks.

- Today’s wine (9-11% alcoholic);
- Today’s Brandy (15-20% alcoholic);
- Today’s liquor (40-50% alcoholic);
- Today’s hard liquor (up to 90% alcoholic)²

Author Louis DeBoer writes; *Christ was a king. He never drank any alcoholic wine. He could not have taken any alcoholic wine at the Last Supper. There could not even have been any alcoholic wine in the house during the feast of the Passover. Therefore Christ and his disciples used non-alcoholic wine at the institution of the Lord’s Supper. Therefore communion by precedent and by the example of our Lord ought to be non-alcoholic wine.*³

DeBoer writes of the wedding at Cana; *There is really no case for moderate drinking of fermented wine here. Either the guests have ‘well drunk’ of new wine, the innocent blood of the grape, or they are getting drunk on alcoholic wine. The text gives us no other alternatives. We are compelled to the conclusion that it had to be new wine...*

The amount of wine that Jesus changed from water would have given each guest (based on the small population of Cana) at least an extra gallon each! *Are we to believe that when the guests were already beginning to get drunk that Christ miraculously produced an additional 100-180 gallons of intoxicating wine? ...We cannot believe such a thing. The Scriptures say at the conclusion of this passage that by a miracle Christ, ‘manifested forth his glory.’⁴*

¹ See <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/alcohol-facts/health-effects-of-alcohol/effects-on-the-body/alcohol-poisoning/> as an example of the many scientific articles affirming the poisonous nature of toxic drinks.

² See www.salembible.org/biblestudies/issues/alcohol/alcohol_4.htm

³ See DeBoer, Louis F., *The Fruit of the Vine: A Biblical Defense of Temperance*, American Presbyterian Press, 2000, p. 66.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pages 55-57.