

A still life photograph featuring a rustic, light-colored ceramic chalice filled with red wine in the foreground. In the background, several pieces of flatbread are stacked on a wooden surface, with some green herbs and white flowers scattered among them. The lighting is warm and focused, creating a sense of depth and texture.

Communion . . .

Christ is our Passover

From Death to Life

THE WEDDING AT CANA

JOHN 2:1-11

Jesus' first miracle in Cana has aroused more interest and received more criticism than nearly any other event recorded by the New Testament writers.

Three thorny theories:

- 1.** Outright rejection of any miracles—ever.
- 2.** Simply a dilution of the wine on hand—a joke.
- 3.** A cultic distortion of the truth.

SO, WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

THE MIRACLE: IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

At this wedding, we see Jesus in three different roles:

1. *JESUS WAS AN INVITED GUEST. v. 1-2*

- The Lord entered into the normal experiences of life and sanctified them by His presence.
- Wise is that couple who invites Jesus to their wedding.

2. *THOUGH HE WAS GOD, JESUS WAS STILL MARY'S SON.* v. 3-5

- Since Jewish wedding feasts lasted a week, it was necessary for the groom to have full provisions.
- To run out of wine would be costly both financially and socially.
- Mary's words to the servants reveal that she trusted Him to do what was right.
- It would be wise for all of us to obey what she said!

3. JESUS, THE PERFECT HOST. v. 6-12

- Our Lord's first miracle was not a spectacular event that everybody witnessed.
- Mary, the disciples, and the servants knew what had happened; but nobody else at the feast had any idea that a miracle had taken place.
- The Gospel of John seeks to share the *inner meaning*—*the spiritual significance*—of our Lord's works, so that each miracle is an “illustration of faith in action.”

THE BIBLE AND ALCOHOL

Wine was the normal drink of the people in that day; we cannot use this miracle as an argument for the social consumption of alcoholic beverages today.

- ***SOME SCRIPTURES TO PONDER: LUKE 22:18; ISA. 5:11-22; PROV. 20:1; HAB. 2:15-16; EPH. 5:18; 1 COR. 8:9, 1 COR. 10:23 & 31; PROV. 31:4-7, PROV. 23:29-30; ROM. 14:21; MIC. 2:11***
- ***FOR PASTORS AND LEADERS: 1 TIM. 3:1-8***

The first reference to wine is found in Genesis when Noah, after the flood, created the original fermented grape juice. *“Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.”* **GEN. 9:21**

- It is sobering to realize that even 4,300 years later, the sin of Noah is still wrecking families today.

HAVE WE LEARNED NOTHING?

Let's be filled with the Spirit, not anything else that could lead us or anyone on earth astray and then watch Jesus do miracles!