

***John 2:1-11. On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." <sup>4</sup> "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, <sup>9</sup> and 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 <sup>10</sup> and 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." <sup>11</sup> This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.***

### **Believe in Jesus Christ!**

*I believe in Jesus Christ.* We say it often as we gather together in worship. In the words of the creeds we say it as both a personal and corporate confession of faith. *I believe in Jesus Christ...* Or we say it this way. *We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God... through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human.*

By the grace of God, by his gift of the Holy Spirit, we believe in our hearts and we confess it with our lips: Jesus is Lord. I believe. We believe. We say it, and in faith *we also live it.*

That will serve as our focus today. This faith that we have is more than a repeated statement, or some sort of vague proclamation, rather the faith that we have in Jesus includes an active trust. As Jesus reveals his glory at the wedding of Cana, he is once again shown to be our trustworthy Savior and our compassionate and faithful Lord. From the Holy Spirit working through the testimony of Holy Scriptures and eyewitness accounts we know who he is and believe that is able and willing to help and save us. He is the Christ. He is God's Son who concealed his glory to save us. He is God's Son who revealed glimpses of his glory in his compassion and kindness. He is our Lord who laid down his life and raised it up again so that we might share his glory forever.

Scripture shows us so clearly who Jesus is. Therefore, we confess his name in statements of faith, as we also actively rely on him. In faith we believe that his is our living Savior and therefore we depend on him. We go to him with our requests, we obey

his commands, we follow him. Such a faith will not be disconnected from our everyday needs and actions, but it will be intimately connected as a foundation of our lives. For Christ has come to unite us to himself, in such a lovely way that he has called his church his beloved bride. He is there for us each day and we believe, and trust, depend on, and love our LORD as we walk with him each day. So dear friends, today we are reminded of all that small phrase includes: Believe in Jesus!

Near the end of his entire book John writes: ***But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*** At the end of our lesson for today we are reminded how the disciples believed in Jesus. John writes, ***This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*** One word is used in the original, it could be translated as believe, but to say as this translation does, “*his disciples put their faith in him*”, does bring out the fact that there is more than just a simple statement of faith going on here. With this belief they were ready to follow him. And they are not the only ones in this lesson that teach us a thing or two about what it means to believe in Jesus. With this event, we also see how the mother of Jesus demonstrated her belief and trust in Jesus. For when there was a need, she acted on that trust that her son was also the Son of God. She also passed that confidence in Jesus on to the wedding attendants who would assist him in this task. An understanding of who Jesus was, led them to act in faith, to look to him, to trust in him, and follow his commands. May God, the Holy Spirit, give us a faith so that we also trust, rely, follow and depend on Jesus.

After watching the weather and hearing the reports a fisherman walks out onto a sheet of ice. But his is not a blind faith, his is a proven trust. He has watched the weather, felt the temperature, heard the reports. He has seen others go out on the ice, and so he believes it to be thick enough to support his weight.

With even more confidence those who believe in Jesus walk out in a faith that is supported by the eyewitness reports and the promise of countless prophecies fulfilled. We act in good company as generations upon generations have called on Jesus as Savior. We join in without hesitation as speak those words of a common creed. *I believe... We believe.*

But as much as we confess our faith in Jesus, we still often struggle to translate that faith into our daily lives. When troubles and problems arise, we may hesitate or even forget that Jesus is there to help and assist. In our daily anxieties, in our modern-day problems, he is too often left out as we take on such things by ourselves. We easily fail to turn to him who is always right there by our side. We confess that Jesus is Lord, as we say the creed on Sunday morning, but by failing to turn to him with the issues of the day we make another statement altogether. We put limits on what he can do. We put limits on his power. We put limits on his care.

And that's one of the ways that this lesson is such a blessing to us. Here Jesus reveals his glory and gives us a powerful glimpse at his limitless ability, his limitless power, and his limitless care. Jesus is present at a wedding and a problem arises that

seems to be a bit underneath the realm of divine intervention. However, this couple celebrating the joy of a wedding ceremony would have come under a terrible amount of grief and shame if the guests had no more wine to drink. And so the mother of Jesus, who had a good idea of who her son was and what he was capable of brought the problem to Jesus.

Mary knew who Jesus was, she knew of what he was capable of, and she knew his character. Remember how she treasured up all those things that she had heard and seen concerning this child of hers. Now she would pull from this understanding and in confidence she comes to Jesus with this problem. She comes knowing he would help. She comes knowing the kindness and love of God that dwelt before her in bodily form. Throughout Old Testament Scriptures Mary had heard of her God being abounding in love and faithfulness. Throughout her life Mary had witnessed how God in love had sent his Son to this earth in his grace and mercy. The angel's announcement of his birth, the visit of the shepherds, the magi, all that had happened in the temple, the testimony of Simeon and Anna, finding Jesus as a boy teaching in the temple, and other events and happenings had only served to strengthen her understanding of who her Son was. And now that understanding led her to approach Jesus with this problem and with confidence that he could help. ***<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."<sup>4</sup> "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."***

While Jesus acknowledges this was not exactly the reason that he had come into this world, he quickly addresses this need with kindness and power that is overwhelming. Plenteous amounts of the best wine are delivered by his command. The one who spoke the universe into existence, gives simple directions to these wedding attendants and water is changed to wine. ***<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine... and it was very good.***

John follows up on this first miraculous deed of Jesus with this bit of commentary. ***This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*** Jesus had very recently begun to assemble his disciples. Nathanael had marveled that Jesus had known without seeing him that Nathanael was under a fig tree. Nathanael was amazed as he began to follow Jesus. Jesus replied to Nathanael's amazement that he would see greater things than that. Nathanael and the rest of the disciples would have plenty of reasons to marvel as Jesus revealed his power in miracles and wonderful displays of compassion and healing and helping. But certainly, the greatest thing that the disciples would witness is how Jesus addressed the greatest need that sinners had.

For in our sin we were lacking not in wine, but in righteous. Eternal shame and disgrace were waiting to be heaped upon us for all eternity. However, Christ Jesus in his love would intervene. He would supply us with his perfect and righteous life. He would

assure sinners that their sins were forgiven in him. He would fulfill the promises of the LORD who abounds in love and faithfulness. As our Savior and our substitute Christ in his love comes to meet our need, and the holy Word of God testifies to the fact that he came to unite us to himself as his dear bride. So that we might know the joy of heaven's wedding banquet he cleanses us through his sacrifice, he makes us his own, he unites us to himself through the gift of faith. He chases away our shame and gives us unparalleled joy. In his great love this is the work of salvation that he truly came to do, but so filled with compassion and kindness he also displays his ability and his proclivity to help us in our everyday needs.

Believe in Jesus. Believe in him as your Savior who graciously and abundantly gives you all that you need for this life and the next. Believe in Jesus and in anything and everything depend on him, rely on him, lean on him, learn from him, and trust in him.

The disciples put their faith in him, and they would follow him, and they would not be disappointed. For they would watch this same Jesus who changed water into wine, who calmed a storm and healed so many sick and lame, they would witness the mystery of his power and love as he would take bread and the cup and say, *"this is my body", "this is my blood given for you for the forgiveness of sins."* They would witness his overwhelming love and compassion as he gave himself over to be crucified and some would even hear him speak words of unparalleled forgiveness and announce that his work of salvation was finished. They would witness with wide eyes and with hearts filled with wonder the resurrected Christ among them. And they would hear his words of unrelenting peace. They would look intently into the sky as he ascended back to his place in heaven, but not before he gave them authority and power to make disciples and the wonderful instruction to baptize in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. O what marvelous things, what greater things they would see and hear. They would witness his compassion, his power, his love.

And so our lesson for today sets a fitting tone. John tells us that on the third day of these certain disciples following Jesus they witnessed this miraculous sign of his compassion and power and they put their faith and their trust in him. They would see far greater things as well, but what a beautiful lesson Jesus teaches his disciples in his changing water into wine. The one who called everything into existence, who had come to bring eternal forgiveness, also cares about our daily troubles. He cares about the individual and personal needs that we have. Filled with compassion he comes to save, and he also comes to help.

So dear friends continue to learn more about Jesus. Believe in him as your Savior. Confess that you know him as Lord. Speak of his glory. Sing of his praise. Join in the creeds that teach and testify of his name. And live out that faith as you walk with him through life as well. In all things depend on him. Rely on him. Lean on him. Bring your problems before him. Trust in his love and care. Listen to his commands and follow him in all of your ways. In short dear friends, "believe in Jesus". Amen.