

SIGNS

MOMENTS THAT MEANT MORE



SIGNS

Water to Wine
Shane Philip
October 13, 2019

SERMON NOTES

The Crossing Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

OPENING

This week we are beginning our seven-week series called **Signs**. It is based upon seven miracles Jesus performed in his Gospel of John the purpose of which was to point to the identity of Christ – the long-awaited Messiah of the Old Testament. The four gospels were written by authors with four purposes: Matthew's gospel was written primarily to a Jewish audience and his purpose was to show that Jesus was the promised Messiah. It contains more references to Old Testament scriptures than any of the others. Mark's gospel is based upon Peter's experiences with Jesus; Luke's is taken from eye witness testimonies and from the perspective of a scientist, to provide proof of Jesus' identity. John wrote his gospel to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. He wanted us to believe **in** Jesus, not just **about** Him.

SCRIPTURE¹

John 20:30-31 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these were 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.

John 2:1-11 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, 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 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." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

OBSERVATION

The first sign occurred in Cana where a week long wedding was taking place. It was a huge celebration, but the revelers drank so much that the wine ran out. This was a terrible thing and reflected badly on the host, embarrassing him beyond belief. So, Jesus' mother, Mary, stepped up and asked Him to fix the problem. And Jesus, although His true identity had not yet been revealed, acceded to her request and turned water into 120 to 180 gallons of new wine. The water in the stone jars was for ceremonial

¹ All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated

washing and represented the Old Covenant – a sacrificial system to redeem them from sin that came through Moses. Now there was a New Covenant being introduced – belief in the Messiah Who was bringing something new – salvation through faith in Him. He was bringing the very best. John is saying, “When we saw this sign we didn’t believe something **about** Jesus, we believed **in** Him.” He doesn’t want us to be enamored with the miraculous, but to become enamored with the Person of Jesus. John would become the closest friend to Jesus. He was asked to take care of Mary and was the only disciple who wasn’t martyred, but lived to old age, about 95 years.

Question: When have you tried to imagine what life was like for disciples of Jesus’ time? Do you wish you could have been one of the Twelve? Why/why not?

APPLICATION

John tells us of seven miracles so that we might believe in Jesus and may have life in his name. These miracles or signs such as healings and walking on water were not random acts of kindness, but they pointed to a Person.

Question: How do you respond when asked if miracles still occur today? What has happened in your life that you would categorize as a miracle? Did that experience point you to Jesus and change your life? These miracles have applications for three groups of people:

1) For those who are not yet followers of Christ. These are the people who have questions and wonder if Christianity really makes sense. Others have told them they don’t have enough faith to believe, but we are never asked to have blind faith. We are invited to see the evidence that points to Jesus and then to place our faith and trust in Him. Belief is based upon evidence that points directly to Jesus as the Son of God. Its process is **SIGNS TO IDENTITY TO BELIEF**. We are invited to believe what happened based on the testimonies of the people who were actually there - testimonies of Matthew, Peter, John plus Luke’s witnesses. Eleven of the Apostles were among over five hundred witnesses who saw Jesus after the Resurrection – ten of them were martyred because they refused to recant their faith even though a terrible fate awaited them here on earth. Belief and trust are based on evidence and evidence demands a verdict. When we tell our stories of experiencing Jesus, we are giving evidence for our faith and this resonates with others.

Question: What evidence do you share with non-believers to convince them that Jesus is real?

2) For followers of Christ. In Mary’s words, “Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.” Love the way Jesus loved us; forgive the way we have been forgiven; serve the way Jesus served. He tells us how to live, how we should love people - and obedience is the key to it all.

Question: When is obeying Jesus difficult for you? How do you react to the idea that obedience is essential to living a faithful life?

Question: How do you react to words like humility, surrender, submit and obey? Where are you in living out those concepts in your life?

Question: How do you know if you are living in His will for your life? Where are you in submitting yourself to God’s will for your life?

3) For those who are serving the Lord. These are the ones who are the first to see the power of Jesus before anyone else. They don’t perform miracles, but Jesus uses them to do it. Serving God is hard work. These are the ones who get criticized or are on the receiving end of an angry parent or we see people revert back to previous bad behavior and we suffer with them. But we also get to be the servants who carry the wine and see the miracles - so, we can’t become weary in well doing! Our miracle is coming!

Question: What is your next step in faithful living?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, whatever You tell us to do, we will do through the guidance of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to submit to Your will in all situations knowing that joy awaits us. In Jesus’ name. Amen