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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Today we find
Jesus
working that
wonderful first miracle
of turning
water into wine.
(**John 2**)

- John has chosen seven miracles to write about.

- He called each of the miracles "signs,"

- Each sign pointing us **in a new direction,**
- A new direction that is **life-changing.**
- Starting with this **water-into-wine** miracle.

- We must remember that beneath John's simple stories there is a deeper meaning which is open only to those who have eyes to see.

- Keep in mind that John never wrote an unnecessary or an insignificant detail.
 - Everything means something and everything points beyond.

- **Revealing**
a message
hidden to those
who refuse to see.
- That is what
John means
when he says that
this miracle
was a sign.

- John is picturing the outcome of

human

and

divine activity.

- Men can fill water jars;
only God can
turn water into wine!

- Men

do the ordinary,

but only God

brings it to life.

- That is the meaning

of this sign.

- John is telling us what life can be like

when Jesus
fills your life
“*to the brim*”
(John 2:7)

- Not only
during
his lifetime on earth,
- But through
all the
centuries to come.

- There were six stone water pots;
- The use of these is not
by accident.

- Jesus is about to solve a problem and make a statement.
- Jesus's message throughout John will be how he came to fulfill the hopes of the Old Testament and lead His people to something even better.

- According to the Jews

seven

is the number
which is

complete and perfect;

- Six

is the number
which is

unfinished and imperfect.

- The six stone water pots stand for all the imperfections of the Jewish law.
 - Jesus came to do away with the imperfections of the law.

- And put in their place
the new wine of
the gospel of grace.

- John 1:16

*And of his fulness have
all we received,
grace for grace.*

1:17 *For the law was given by Moses,
but grace and truth
came by Jesus Christ.*

- Let us look at the Greek point of view.

- It so happens that the Greeks possessed similar stories.

- It is as if John said to the Greeks:
*"You have your stories
and your legends
about your gods.*
- But they are
only stories
and you know that
they are not true.
- But Jesus has come
to do what you have
always dreamed that
your gods could do.

- Let us notice

where

Jesus worked
this first miracle.

- It would seem that
the most probable place
would have been in
the thriving

metropolis of the day.

- Some place where throngs of people would behold this miracle.

- And as a result word would spread like wildfire.

- But it did not happen like that.

- It happened in a humble home in Cana of Galilee.

- There is a strange paradox in the attitude of many people to the place they call home.
- We all know the plaque that reads:
- There is no place like home.

- And yet,
at the same time,
they would also
have to admit
that in it they claim
the right to be:

- discourteous,

- boorish,

- selfish,

- And impolite.

- Many treat loved ones in a way that they would never dare to treat a stranger.
- So often it is strangers who see us at our best and those who live with us who see us at our worst.

- We ought ever
to remember that
it was in a humble home
that Jesus

“*manifested forth his glory.*”

{**John 2:11**}

- To Jesus home was
a place for which nothing
but his best
was good enough.

- In the East

hospitality

was always a sacred duty.

- It would have brought

embarrassment

and shame

to that home that day

if the wine had run out.

- It was to save a humble Galilaean family from embarrassment
Jesus put forth his power.
- It was a deed done for simple folk that Jesus acted.

- It is tempting to do big thing

on

big occasions;

- But it takes Jesus to do big things

on simple,

homely occasions like this. 28

- Jesus,
the Lord of all life,

and

King of glory,

used his power to save
a simple Galilaean family
from humiliation.

- It is just by such
simple deeds

that we too

can show that

we are followers of Jesus Christ.

- This story shows us two things about Mary's faith in Jesus.
- # 1 Mary turned to Jesus whenever something went wrong.
- Song: Trust & Obey

- # 2 Even when Mary did not understand what Jesus would do.
- She believed in him.
 - She had faith to trust even when she did not understand.

- In every life **come periods of darkness** when we do not see the way.

- In every life come things which **we do not see why they came** or any meaning in them.

- But Jesus **turns water to wine.**

- All through the gospel story *Jesus talks about his hour.*

{John 2:4}

- Jesus knew that he had come into this world *for a definite purpose.*

- He saw his life not in terms of his wishes, but in terms of God's purpose for himself.
{*I have come to do thy will, O God.*}
(**Hebrews 10:9**)

- Jesus saw his life not against the shifting background of time, but against the steady background of eternity.
- He went steadily towards that hour for which he knew that he had come into the world.

- **It is not only Jesus**
who came into this world
to fulfill the purpose of God.
- We, too, must think
not of our own wishes,
but of the purpose for which
God sent us into his world.

- Outside the city of Houston, Texas there is park celebrating General Sam Houston's defeat of the Mexican army.
- In commemoration of that event
Texans have erected a huge monument.

- And with typical Texas modesty placed a sign in front of it that says.

- **"This tower is ten feet taller than the Washington Monument."**

- That is what **signs** are for:

- To tell you something **that you would not otherwise know.**

- **That is what John means**
when he says that
this miracle was a sign.
- **Men** can fill water jars;
 - But only **God**
can turn water
into wine!

- Men do the ordinary.
- But God adds the Divine.
- John is saying only Jesus can change your life.

- **John 10:10**

*I am come that
they might have life,
and that they
might have it
more abundantly.*

- **Forrest Gump:**

*“Life is like
a box of chocolates,
you never know what
you’re going to get.”*

- But with Jesus you know exactly what you are going to get.
- *The abundant life.*
- What did Jesus mean by that statement?
- Let's take a look.

- **When we were born**

we were given

bios life

{G-979}.

- **Luke 15:123**

And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me.

And he divided unto them his

living. {G-979}

- When we are born again we are given zoe life {G-2222}.

- Matthew 19:16

*And one came and said unto him,
Good Master, what good thing
shall I do, that I may have
eternal life? {G-2222}*

- The Christian **has a new relationship** with God through Jesus Christ.
- **What** is that new relationship?
- What is meant by the word “**abundantly**”?
- There is a new meaning meaning to life.
 - A new **outlook**,
 - A new **hope**,
 - A new **joy**.

- It still affects us today as well.
 - Life has a new joy and gladness.
 - That is the meaning of this sign.
 - That is what John wants you to know.
 - Do you believe it?

- John would have us see that

"his disciples believed in him."

- They believed

more deeply

in him than before.

- They saw that here was One **who could handle life.**
- Here was One who could **take the commonplace** and make it **a source of joy.**

- The world is constantly telling us that youth is the time when one can drink the wine of life;
 - Youth is the "days of wine and roses."
 - Youth is the only time one can really find excitement, adventure and joy.

- But we know the **joy of family.**
- Children, grand-children, great-grand-children.
 - The **richness** of it all.
- May we lift up our hearts and say to God:
"You have kept the best wine till last."

- Let us notice the words of
Robert Browning:

*Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be,*

- ***The last of life***

For which the first was made!

- This is the significance for us of
this sign.

- Our Lord is able to take the humdrum, commonplace, ordinary, events of our lives and with his touch make them full of flavor, fragrance, strength and beauty; to turn them into wine.

- He will do this
for all
who believe in him.
- That is why John highlights
for us,
*"there the disciples
believed in him."*

- **There is another thing to note.**
 - There were six water pots;
each held between
about thirty gallons of water.
 - That would give about
one hundred and eighty gallons
of wine.
 - What John is saying
is that the
grace of Jesus
is enough and to spare for all.

- Author: Julia H. Johnston (1910)
- Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
- **Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!**
- **Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured—**
- **There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.**
 - **Refrain:**
 - **Grace, grace, God's grace,**
 - **Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;**
 - **Grace, grace, God's grace,**
 - Grace that is greater than all our sin!

- John is telling us that in Jesus the imperfections have become perfection,

- And His grace is sufficient

and

more than sufficient

for every need.

- John is not teaching us that what Jesus did once He will never do again,
 - But of something which he is forever doing.

- When Jesus comes
into
your life
and mine
there comes
a new quality
which is like
turning water into wine.

- Without Jesus,
life is dull
and stale and flat;
- But when Jesus comes into it,
life becomes
vivid,
sparkling,
exciting.

- When Sir Wilfred Grenfell, a medical missionary to Newfoundland in 1892, was appealing for volunteers for his work in Labrador, he said:

- **“I cannot promise much money, but I can promise the time of your lives.”**

- This is
John's promise:

- *"Wherever Jesus comes into your life it was like water turning into wine."*

- Notice John's words in **John 1:16**

“**grace upon grace**”

- It is like

fresh manna

each morning,

- New grace

for the new day.

- The disciples saw the miracle,
- But even more they saw:
 - New life,
 - New hope,
 - New purpose.

- 1 Peter 1:8

Whom having not seen,
*you love; in whom, though
now you see him not,
yet believing,
you rejoice with
joy unspeakable
and full of glory:*

- Jesus himself said to his disciples,
"Many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it"
(Luke 10:23-24).

- Jesus said to Thomas,
*"Have you believed
because you have seen me?
Blessed are those
who have not seen,
and yet believe"*
(**John 20:29**).

- Jesus is not someone who lived and died and exists now only as a figure in a book
- But someone who lived and died and is alive for evermore.

- It has been said that
"no apostle ever remembered Jesus."

- That is to say,
Jesus is more than a memory;

- He is a living,
dynamic being.

- 1 Corinthians 15:19

*If in this life only
we have hope in Christ,
we are of all men
most miserable.*

- If the Resurrection of Jesus **is not a fact** the whole Christian message is based on a lie.
 - If no resurrection **then life has no meaning,**
 - **Hope** has no hope,
 - **Love** no purpose,
 - **Faith** no value.
 - **Life** no purpose.

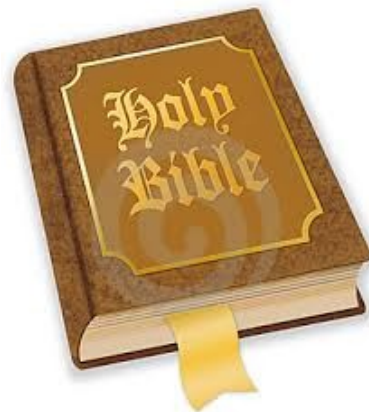
- Is your life
watered down?
- It need no be!
- Allow Jesus to
turn your water
to wine.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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