





A Wedding Invitation

John 2:1-12

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Discuss:

Talk about weddings.

Have you ever been to a wedding?

What does a wedding look like?

What do all weddings have? A bride and a groom.

God designed marriage to be between one man and one woman.

A wedding is a celebration that usually involves family and friends and is celebrating a change.

After a wedding, things are different than they were before. What used to be two people living separately now becomes a man and a wife, and now they start a family together.

A wedding is often a party that involves feeding a lot of people. In Jesus' culture, weddings were long and sometimes would even mean celebrating for days. In this story, it appears that they ran out of wine and did not have enough to finish the celebration. This was insulting to the groom and could have made it look like he didn't prepare for his guests.

Jesus and his friends were invited to this wedding, and it appears that his brothers were there also (see John 2:12). We aren't given a lot of information, but it seems like maybe it was a family wedding, or a close friend, because Jesus' mother Mary seems to be coordinating things. She is the one who is handling the wine problem and is also the one giving instructions to the servants.

Mary comes to Jesus and simply tells him, "They don't have any wine." Jesus' response may seem a little harsh to us, but our understanding of these words may not be the same as he intended it. He says, basically, "What does this have to do with me? It's not my time yet."

Mary seems unfazed by his response, and simply tells the servants,

"Do whatever he tells you to do."

There are six large stone water pots nearby. These are used for washing, or purification, and the Jews used them to wash before and after meals. They did not have toilets and sinks or plumbing like we do, so they used these for washing their hands and cleaning. **Jesus told the servants to fill the pots with water all the way up to the top.**

After the servants fill the pots with water,

Jesus tells them to dip it out and take it to the master of the wedding feast. When they took it to the man who was in charge of the wedding, he had no idea what had happened, but it says the servants knew. The man praised the groom and said that usually people put the best wine out first, and after everyone is drunk they bring out the cheaper wine. But in this case, he congratulates him, and says, **you saved the best wine for last.**



A Wedding Invitation

This made a lot of wine.

These pots would have held about 20-30 gallons each, which would be between 600-900 bottles of wine.

Jesus was not looking for attention. Most of the people at the wedding never knew what happened. Jesus and his disciples knew, and the servants knew, but this miracle brought honor to the bridegroom of the wedding.

This was Jesus' first miracle.

John tells us that it showed his glory and made his disciples believe on him. They had only very recently joined Jesus in his travels, and they were new to his ministry, but this apparently persuaded them.

There are very specific things that are mentioned in the story that are not explained to the reader, but we can use them for discussion.

Discuss:

There was probably significance in the fact that there were six stone pots of water, and that these pots were used for cleaning, washing and purification.

Why did Jesus tell Mary it wasn't his concern or his time?

Why did he do something anyway even though he told Mary it wasn't time?

Did Jesus perform this miracle to protect the reputation of the bridegroom?

Mary's response could be seen as faith; she apparently knew Jesus was able to do something. Did her response motivate Jesus to act?

John is very specific in telling us that the servants knew what had happened. So often the Lord works in the ordinary and doesn't bring attention to the leaders but works through ordinary people.

News of this event inevitably spread. Later in John 4:46 we are told that Jesus came back to this area in Cana of Galilee that a nobleman came to Jesus asking for healing of his son. It appears that this nobleman was at the wedding. Either way, he heard what Jesus had done and had faith for his son to be healed. When we put our faith in Jesus, he makes all things new, and we become new creatures. He transforms us in the same way that he transformed this ordinary water into wine (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Jesus in the Story



There are several different ways of looking at this story. Some say that the pots of water may have been used in an orderly way. The first pot was the dirtiest, and a person would wash their hands in this one first. Then they would continue rinsing in each pot, until they reached the last pot where the water was the least polluted. No matter how dirty the pot or the water, it was all turned into the same high-quality wine.

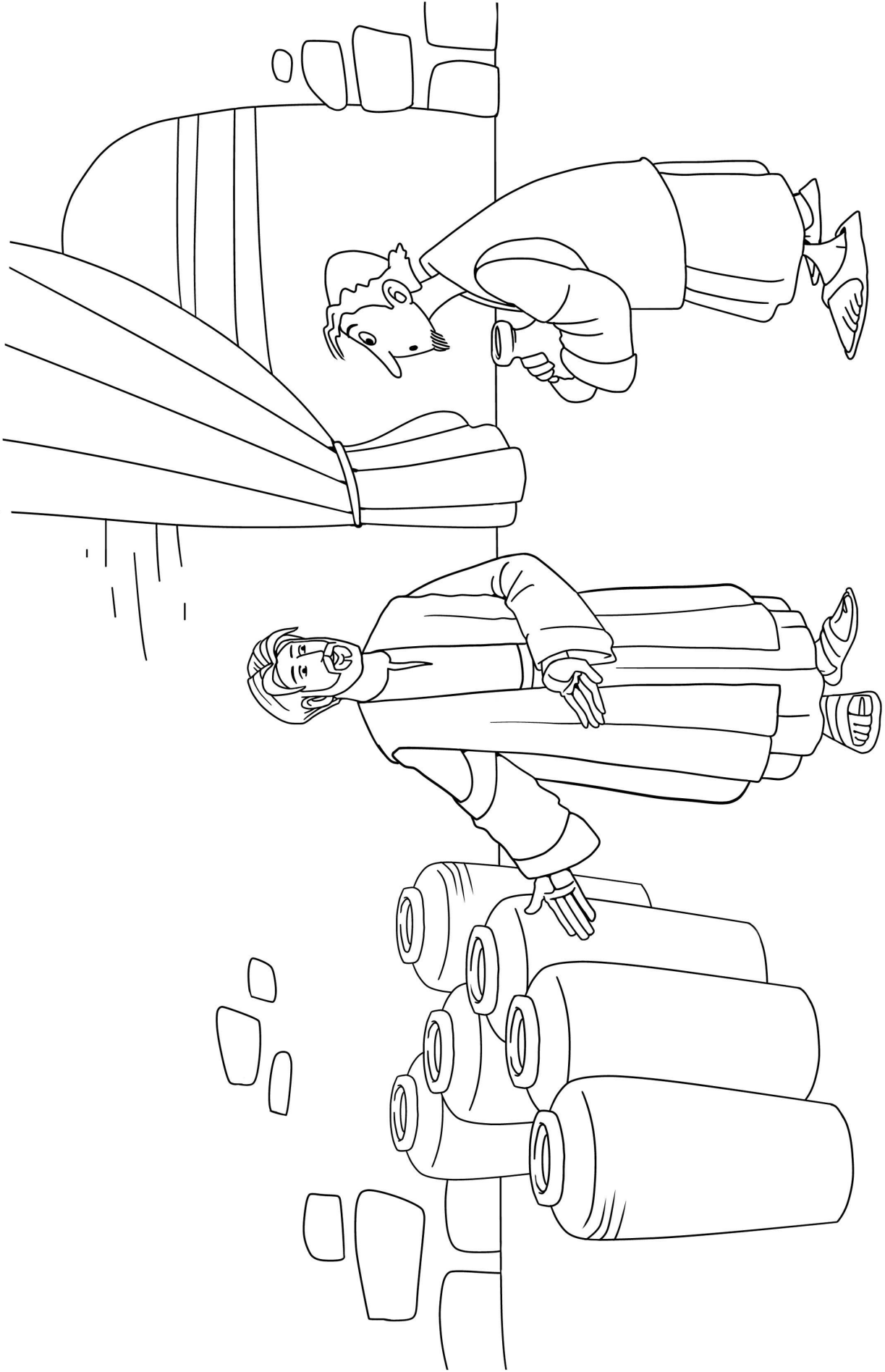
We can compare this to our lives. No matter what we've done, or how much we have sinned, everyone becomes new when they believe on Jesus. He gives us all the same purity, and the same righteousness. As vessels, or pots, we are better now that we have Jesus and the new version of us in Christ is better than we were when we tried to purify ourselves.

The pots can also symbolize that before Christ we were trying to purify ourselves and be "good enough" for God. The dirty water will never be clean enough, it can't be. But this wine symbolizes Jesus' blood, and his blood makes us cleaner than we could ever be without his transformation in our lives.

This was Jesus' first miracle, and it showed his glory and power to others. He had very recently asked his disciples to follow Him and they believed on Him after this miracle.

Jesus quietly performed this miracle at the wedding, and the groom was congratulated for saving the best wine for last.

At the time, the servants and Jesus' disciples and family were the only people who really knew what had happened at the wedding. Apparently the news spread, because the next time Jesus came to Cana they knew what he had done at the wedding feast, and people came to him for healing where he performed his second miracle (John 2:5-12; John 4:45-47).



Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

1. My Beloved Son

1. What opened when Jesus was baptized?
2. What did God send to Jesus, and how did it appear?
3. Where did the voice come from?
4. What did the voice say?

Matthew 3:16-17

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting upon him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

2. Into the Wilderness

1. What three things did Satan use to tempt Jesus?
2. 1 John 2:16 lists different types of sin and temptations in the world. What three basic things are the beginning of all sin and temptation?

1 Samuel 12:24

Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

3. A Wedding Invitation

Read John 4:45-46

1. Where did Jesus go?
2. What happened the last time Jesus was here?
3. Why were these people looking for Jesus?
4. How did they know about him?

Isaiah 43:19

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

4. A Den of Thieves

Read Matthew 21:12-17

1. How many times did Jesus cleanse the temple?
2. What were the people doing in the temple?
3. What did Jesus say the temple is supposed to be?
4. What did Jesus do in the temple instead?

1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Peter 2:5

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.