

TEXT - John 2:1-11

Introduction: If you could have just one thing, what would it be – a miracle that would change your life? There's always something that we think would make our life so much better, not realizing that our life is already beyond anything we could possibly imagine through Jesus our Savior. No matter how many earthly blessings we acquire, they cannot even begin to compare to just one spiritual blessing that is already ours in Christ. And yet we still think that if Jesus could just perform this one particular miracle life would be so much better. Maybe it's a large sum of money to get us out of debt or a new house or cure a disease or make an illness go away. Maybe we would like Jesus to make us smarter or more talented or get us a higher paying job. Insert whatever miracle it is that would supposedly make your life great. But it hasn't happened yet. Will it ever happen? It doesn't hurt to ask, does it? Mary received her miracle from Jesus, why can't we? So, STILL WAITING FOR THAT MIRACLE? Remember that – 1) Jesus already satisfies our needs, and also that 2) Jesus graciously strengthens our faith.

I. Jesus already satisfies our needs

- The setting for Jesus' first miracle is a common and ordinary event in people's lives. It's a special time when family members and friends gather together for a joyous event. Jesus' first miracle occurred of all places at a wedding, more specifically at the wedding reception.
- Like wedding receptions today, this wedding that Jesus attended likely had lots of food and drink, at least to begin with. Family and friends were enjoying their time together and congratulating the bride and groom, wishing them many happy years together as husband and wife.
- The town in which this wedding took place John tells us was Cana. The town of Cana was located less than 10 miles north of Nazareth, Jesus' hometown. Jesus, his mother Mary and Jesus' disciples had all been invited to this wedding. At this early time in Jesus' ministry there were probably six disciples that Jesus had already called to follow him full-time – Peter and Andrew, James and John, Philip and Nathanael.
- Mary seems to have had some sort of official responsibility as she is very concerned about running out of wine. Especially in those days it was a great embarrassment to run out of anything. People had come from great distances to be there and these wedding receptions sometimes lasted as long as a week or more. Someone had messed up in the planning because the bride and groom on their special day had run out of wine.
- Mary's immediate solution was to see if Jesus as God's Son could do something to help. Jesus could do something about it, but would he do something about it? Did Mary approach Jesus as some sort of miracle machine? The gospel writer John doesn't state Mary's motives. It may have been just a panic request to do something, anything.
- Jesus' response to his mother is interesting. He said, "Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come." His response in a way tells Mary his mother that he would take care of the situation in his own way at his own time. If there was to be a miracle it would occur only according to his Father's will at the appointed time.
- Jesus never did miracles simply to serve himself. But each miracle he performed did reveal who he was as the Son of God in human flesh who had come to be our Savior. At the wedding reception in Cana Jesus did perform a miracle to avoid an embarrassing situation for the married couple. He changed water into wine. The six stone water jars that the servants had filled with water were miraculously changed into wine by the time they offered it to the master of the banquet for a taste.
- It seems as if this was a rather insignificant miracle. It's not like the time Jesus calmed the storm or when he healed the lepers. It's similar to Jesus feeding over 5,000 people with some bread and a few fish and then doing it again with over 4,000 people. Jesus' first miracle actually reminds us of the miracles Jesus performs for us every day by providing all that we need for our daily lives.
- As Luther says, we are provided with "clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle and all I own and all that I need to keep my body and life." Luther also reminds us that as God Jesus gave us our body and soul, eyes, ears, and all our members, our mind and all our abilities.
- Jesus provides everything we truly need for our bodily welfare. The problem isn't the lack of miracles. The problem is our lack of contentment with what we have already been given. Paul says, "For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." In addition to our lack of contentment we worry and complain breaking the First Commandment over and over again as we doubt Jesus' love and care as well as his ability to provide for us.
- Jesus' first miracle was the perfect miracle to remind us how well he provides for all our bodily needs. We repent of our lack of faith and trust in Jesus to love us enough to provide for all that we truly need. This miracle at Cana helps us to be more thankful for the many blessings we daily receive for our body and life. David's words certainly strike a cord in this regard when he writes, says, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want."

Transition: Still waiting for that miracle? Jesus already satisfies all our needs. He provides us with everything we need – clothing, food and drink, shelter and so much more. More importantly than any of these blessings we also remember that Jesus strengthens our faith.

II. Jesus graciously strengthens our faith

- The master of the banquet was quite astonished when he tasted the wine. Usually the couple would bring out the good wine first. Then, when the guests had consumed a little more than they should have and as the days rolled on, the master of the banquet could serve the cheaper wine. This banquet manager was astonished when he tasted the wine the servants had brought to him. It was much better than the wine the couple provided at the beginning of the wedding banquet.
- Jesus' miracles were always first class. The wine he made from water was superb. The healings Jesus performed were complete. Those with leprosy were given skin just like when they were young. The blind could see clearly. The paralyzed and lame could walk and jump without a limp. When Jesus calmed the storm the raging waters were completely still. There was nothing second-class or second rate about any of Jesus' miracles.
- But what was the real purpose of this miracle. Was Jesus providing a community service for those invited to the wedding banquet? He certainly saved the wedding couple from embarrassment for running short of wine. We should note too that the miracle of changing water into wine didn't cost the bride and groom anything.. What a great miracle it was for them. But it really doesn't do much for us, does it?
- John, who was very likely at this wedding banquet, tells us what this miracle truly did for him and the other disciples as well as for all of us as Christ's followers today. He wrote, "This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him."
- This miracle was an epiphany, a revelation of just who this Jesus of Nazareth was. With each and every miracle Jesus revealed his glory and power as the Son of God. There could be no doubt that Jesus was the Christ, the Anointed One of God who had come down from heaven to save sinners from eternal destruction in hell.
- The miracle Jesus performed at Cana is a faith-strengthening miracle. It did not then and will not now bring anyone to faith in Jesus. That is the Spirit's work through the means he uses – the gospel in Word and sacrament. But for believers like us who already have faith this act of changing water into wine confirms and strengthens us in our faith that Jesus is the Savior and our Savior from sin and death and hell.
- Do you know what would really strengthen my faith? What if Jesus would do a special miracle for me? Then I would really believe in him. Would your faith be strengthened because he gave you a new car or cured you of your illness or disease? Would a large sum of money instantly yours make you more faithful to Jesus? It's really not the miracle itself that strengthens our faith at all. It's the realization of who the one is performing the miracle.
- It doesn't matter if we are healed or not healed, it doesn't matter if we are wealthy or not wealthy or if we have a brand new car or an old junker. Faith believes and trusts that Jesus will take care of us. Faith knows Jesus will care for us because he loved us enough to die on the cross for our sins, and as evidenced by his miracles he certainly has the power to do whatever he feels is necessary and beneficial for our faith and life.
- The greatest miracle ever performed for us has nothing to do with money or cars or physical health. The greatest miracle Jesus performed for us was spiritual. This is also the basis of our faith in Jesus. As sinners by nature we are spiritually dead separated from God now and one day for all eternity. Paul wrote, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins." Only a miracle could save us.
- That miracle occurred when the Holy Spirit through his saving gospel in Baptism or through his Word gave us spiritual life and faith in Jesus. Paul writes, "God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth." You already have the only miracle you really need – to have faith in Jesus as your Savior by the gracious work of the Holy Spirit in your heart.
- All that Jesus does for you whether by miracle or simply by his daily providence, everything you read about him and study in God's Word only confirms and strengthens your faith that he is your Savior. Paul writes to Titus, "He saved us not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

Conclusion: Still waiting for that miracle? Are you waiting or praying for a miracle that will change your life? The wait is over. You already have that miracle because you have Jesus. He is your Savior by faith. Jesus already satisfies all your needs and he graciously strengthens your faith. As Jesus said so often to those he healed. "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Amen.