

The Glory of Wine: The First Sign

John H. Niemelä at Crosspoint Community Church,
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Introduction

Review of Purpose Statement (from April 5)

John's Gospel uses *pisteuō* (believe) 100 times.

John's Gospel uses *sēmeion* (sign) seventeen times:

2:11, 18, 23; 3:2; 4:48, 54; 6:2, 14, 26, 30; 7:31; 9:16; 10:41; 11:47; 12:18, 37; 20:30.

Signs verify Jesus as the Greater-than-Moses Prophet-like-Moses:

A sign is a short-term fulfilled miraculous prophecy, proving one to be a prophet-like-Moses (especially proving the Greater-than-Moses Prophet-like-Moses) Deut 18:15-22.

John 20:30-31: Signs prove that Jesus is the life-giving Messianic Son of God:

30 Thus Jesus also did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which have not been written in this book. 31 But these [eight signs] have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so that by believing you may have life in His name.

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|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Water to wine | 2:1-12 | 5. Teleport boat | 6:15-21 |
| 2. Heal official's son | 4:46-54 | 6. Heal man born blind | 9:1-12 |
| 3. Heal lame man | 5:1-15 | 7. Raise Lazarus | 11:1-44 |
| 4. Feed 5000+ | 6:1-14 | 8. Cross-plus-resurrection | 19-20 (cf. 2:18-22) |

The other disciples attested to John's Gospel—including the signs (John 21:24):

This is the disciple who testifies about these *things* and wrote them. Indeed, we [*the other disciples*] know that his testimony is true.

Emphasis on signs in John 2-3

- 2:11 First sign in the presence of His disciples (cf. 20:30 and 21:24)
- 2:18-21 Cross-plus-resurrection as one sign
- 2:23 Many who saw signs believed in Him (cf. those not seeing: 6:26)
- 3:2 No man can do the signs You do, unless God is with Him

The Wedding in Cana of Galilee

Jesus & His disciples left Batanea for Galilee, arriving on the third day (2:1a)

Walking from S.W. Batanea (John and Josephus spell it as Bēthania) to Cana takes 2 days

Jesus Comes to the Wedding Feast (2:1b-2)

Mary seems to have had an official role (perhaps as a relative of the groom), since she

1. assumed responsibility for the lack of wine (2:3),
2. indirectly requests for Jesus to resolve the problem (2:3, cf. 2:4), and
3. gave orders to the servants (2:5).

Dine without Wine (2:3)

“Ma’am... My Hour Has Not Yet Come” (2:4)

Jesus politely says that He follows FST: “Ma’am, what is that to Me and you?”

Jesus’ time had not yet come in John 7:6, 30; and 8:20. However, during the week before His crucifixion His hour had arrived (12:23, 27; 13:1). This is in fulfillment of the timetable established in Daniel 9:24-27, especially 9:25f.

“Do Whatever He Says” (2:5)

Six Stone Water Jars Filled to the Brim (2:6f)

Whet/Wet the Thirst of the Master of Ceremonies (2:8)

Why Did You Withhold the Fine Wine? (2:9f)

Glory Revealed; Disciples Believe (2:11)

Two Days of Reflection (2:12)

A footnote describing how things were three years later appears in John ____:_____.

Conclusion