

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

John 2:1-12

January 20, 2019

Let the epiphany of Jesus' first miracle increase your trust in him.

- Parents love to note and share their baby's firsts.
 - ♦ First roll over, tooth, crawl, words, steps...
 - ♦ Why not?! Marvel with them over God's design and workmanship.
- Jesus' firsts
 - ♦ 2 weeks ago - first Gentiles to seek and worship him.
 - ♦ Last Sunday - first day of Jesus' public ministry as the Christ.
 - ♦ First task as the Christ - 40 days tempted, tested, and tried
 - ♦ Next: first disciples: Andrew, John, Peter, Philip, Nathanael, James (?)
 - ♦ First journey together: Cana for a wedding
 - Why this place and this event for this first - his first miracle?
 - Jesus' answer: the Father's time and place - Jesus trusted the Father
 - ♦ What did Jesus' 1st miracle say about himself - his work as the Christ?
 - **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.**
 - It's an **epiphany**, so people see & trust he is the divine Savior.

❖ See this sign

- A standard life event. Wedding celebrations typically 7 day events
- Mary - relative or friend? Clearly helping with the wedding celebration
 - ♦ She's aware *out of wine* and she acts to address the problem
 - ♦ She has authority to direct the servants
- **They have no more wine.** Known by Mary, Jesus, disciples, servants
- Witnesses, start to finish, to the wonder - those who saw the sign.
 - ♦ Water jars (20-30 gal for ceremonial washing) - not wine jars
 - ♦ Filled to the brim (visible) with just plain water.
 - ♦ Servants don't hesitate when Jesus instructs: let the master test
 - When was it clear it was wine? Did they smell it? When drawing it?
 - They saw the master of the banquet's reaction: fine wine!
- The master & guest provided the objective witness to reality. Real wine!
- **See this sign.** It's clear.
 - ♦ **Sign** in the Bible: a miracle that **reveals** God - his works - his will
 - ♦ Miracle - outside the realm of God's natural created order.
 - ♦ Science observes natural created order. It can't repeat miracles.
 - ♦ It is a supernatural event - God overrides his natural order.

- ♦ The evidence is clear and abundant. This is a miraculous sign.
 - Everyone who **sees this miracle** will see what God **makes clear**.
 - Reject the evidence - miss the message. Explain away.
 - Accept the objective reality - see the sign and believe.

❖ Recognize his glory.

- John knows what they saw as eyewitnesses.
 - ♦ They also saw the significance of this **miraculous sign** - Jesus is God!
 - ♦ **Clearly Jesus is the Son of God - God's promised Messiah.**
- This was not a **new epiphany** to them.
 - ♦ Days ago Jesus demonstrated his divine omniscience
 - addressed Nathanael by name, knew his character, and describes Philip inviting him to meet Jesus, even though they were out of eye sight.
 - An epiphany - Nathanael: **Rabbi, you are the Son of God.**
 - ♦ John recounted God saying: **this is my Son** - John pointing to Jesus.
- **Jesus' first miracle** further confirmed his power over nature
 - ♦ They **recognized his glory as God.** Clearly Jesus is **God!**
- Mary - 30 years of epiphanies from the word.
 - ♦ Mary's request seems to seek a miracle. Why? He'd never done one!
 - ♦ Gabriel told Mary that her first born is **the Son of the Most High.**
 - ♦ The words of Elizabeth, shepherds, Simeon, Anna, and the Magi.
 - ♦ She pondered the words of the 12 year old Jesus.
 - ♦ No doubt Mary heard what happened after Jesus' baptism
 - ♦ Mary saw his glory before this miracle. His glory confirmed here.

❖ Stand in awe. Trust him as God your Savior.

- The impact of this first miracle: **...his disciples believed in him.**
 - ♦ Context - it's clear. Not a new faith, but renewed faith.
 - ♦ Faith comes through God's Word. Miracles confirm the word as God's
- Through faith we **see the sign** and **recognize his glory**
 - ♦ Stand in awe of this miracle! Recognize Jesus' glory - he's God.
 - ♦ Let it draw you to Jesus - to listen, to trust, to silence your fears
 - ♦ Taste his mercy that grieves over our sin condition, your blind foolishness, slavish weakness, stubborn strong willed *yes buts*.
 - ♦ Jesus, whose mercy cares about wine at a feast - cares about your life.
- Parents love to remember their children's firsts. God's children are wise to remember this epiphany - this first and all of his other miracles.
 - ♦ Let this epiphany burn away: **I have to be in charge! I need to know!**
 - ♦ Knowing the One we trust - calms hearts in the midst of life's storms.

Let the epiphany of Jesus' first miracle increase your trust in him.