

SECTION 1



The First Miracle

Study Word



governor (gə' vən ə): the man in charge

The wise men from the East worshiped the Baby Jesus as King of the Jews. Now, thirty years later, Nathanael called the man Jesus, the King of Israel. What had this King done those thirty years?

The Bible tells us almost nothing about those years. However, we can be sure of one thing. Jesus did not act like you would think a young king would act. He grew up in Nazareth just like any other Jewish boy in those days.

There in his home village, Joseph taught Jesus the carpenter trade. The neighbors knew Him as a carpenter, the son of a carpenter. They knew Him as the oldest boy in Joseph and Mary's family.

They also saw Him as a good young man, because He always went to the synagogue to worship on the Sabbath

Day. And He knew the Scriptures by heart.

But now Jesus was beginning the special work God had sent Him to do. Three years from now He would die on the cross to save people from their sins. During those three years He would show the world that He was God's Son. That was why He now began doing things that no other man could do—things that only God could do. We call such wonderful works *miracles*.

Jesus did His first miracle in the town of Cana. That was Nathanael's hometown. He did the miracle at a friend's wedding. His mother and the disciples were invited to the wedding too.

Weddings in those days were much different from our weddings. One big difference was that the celebration sometimes lasted for a week. Can you imagine how much food and drink it

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took for a wedding feast that lasted for seven days?

While Jesus was enjoying the feast with the other guests, His mother came quietly to Him. "They have no more wine," she whispered.

No one knew what to do. No one but Mary. She had slipped out and found her oldest son. She had told Him the problem. Now she said to the servants, "You do whatever Jesus tells you to do."

Jesus saw six big empty water jars sitting nearby. They had held water to wash the hands and feet of the wedding guests. "Fill those jars with water," He said.

The servants obeyed. They filled the jars up to the brim.

"Now draw it out and carry it to the **governor** of the feast."

What! Take water to him when he called for wine! If that is what the servants thought, they did not say it. They simply did what Jesus told them to do.

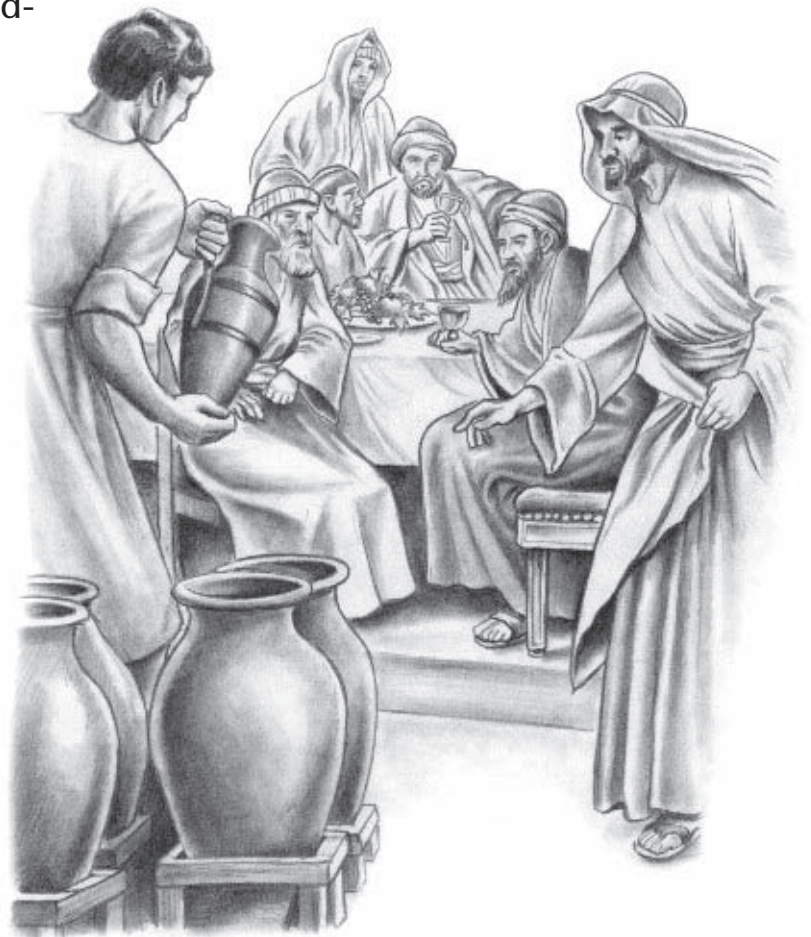
It was all done so quickly and quietly that the governor had no time to wonder why the servants weren't bringing the wine.

No one could have said when

it happened, but at some point, the water in those jars turned to the finest wine.

When the governor tasted what the servants had brought, he was amazed and puzzled. He called the bridegroom and said, "Most people serve the best wine first, and leave what isn't so good for later. But you have saved the best wine till last."

The governor of the feast did not know where the fine wine had come from. Neither did the bridegroom or the family or the guests. Of course the



servants who had filled the jars with water knew what Jesus had done.

That Guest from Nazareth, that young Carpenter, had turned water to

wine so His friend's wedding feast would not be spoiled. They had never heard of such a thing before. What kind of man was this Jesus of Galilee?

From the Story

Underline all the correct answers.

1. How did Jesus' neighbors see Him?

As a carpenter

As Joseph and Mary's oldest boy

As a king

As a normal Jewish boy in Nazareth

As a good young man

Circle the number.

2. Jesus spent **2 3 4 5** years showing the world that He was God's Son.

3. Jesus had done **0 1 2 3** miracles before the one at Cana.

4. A wedding feast sometimes lasted **7 8 9 10** days.

5. Jesus turned **3 4 5 6** jars of water into wine.

6. When Jesus was **20 30 40** years old, He began His special work.

That's Our God

Fill in the blanks.

7. Miracles are wonderful works that only _____ can do.

8. Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with _____, but when they poured it out, it had turned into _____.

For Me Today

Finish the sentence.

9. Mary knew what to do when they ran out of wine. So, Mary told the servants, “Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.” That is good advice for us too. You can do the same thing when you have problems.

You can tell your problems to _____ .

How and Where They Lived

Follow the directions.

10. On the map, circle the name of the town where Jesus did His first miracle.
11. Usually the best wine was served **first, last** at a wedding, but the day Jesus did His first miracle it was served **first, last**.
12. Tell something about the wedding in today’s story that was different from any wedding you have ever been to.

