

## INTRODUCTION 引言

The story is about the first miracle Jesus performed at a wedding celebration. The event happened at Cana of Galilee. It was a small village about nine miles to the north of Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus. The Lord, His mother and His disciples were invited to the party. At that time, it was common to include everyone in a village in the feast. The groom's family would pay for all the expenses. Depending on their financial status, a wedding banquet could last a few days to a full week. Besides food, wine was a must. The beverage was diluted to one-third to one-tenth of its strength. It is less strong than ordinary beer today. Let us be clear, the Bible does not forbid drinking wine. But God warns us about getting drunk. Too much of a good thing may cause harm. The problem in the story was not binge-drinking but there was no more wine. It would be a huge embarrassment to the families on both sides not to entertain the guests with drinks. People would remember their failure for a long time! You know how the problem was resolved: Jesus came to the rescue. He provided wine when people needed it. That reminds me of a beer commercial. At a backyard party, a man told his buddies that he recently adopted a rescue dog named "Wego." They wondered what kind of strange name it was. The man said it might not be the best-looking dog, but it could do amazing things. He encouraged his friends to call the dog to come to them. Therefore, someone shouted: "Here, Wego!" Lo and behold, the pet came forward and he hauled a six-pack of beer in its mouth. That is the tagline of the commercial: Here we go! Compared to what the dog does, Jesus' goal was not to save a party. He shows His glory so that people will come to know His story.

## EXPLANATION 解釋

### 1. Deficient in Wine 沒酒

In the passage, the party was clearly deficient in wine. The groom was responsible for the matter. But in verse 3, Mary asked Jesus for help. It implies that Mary might have a role in the event. Jesus' reply in verse 4 seems odd: ... **“Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”** First up, it sounds rude to call one's mom "woman." The description is actually similar to how some people in the south address their parents as "sir" and "ma'am." Therefore, Jesus was not disrespectful. He was not annoyed by the request either. By this time, Jesus was a full-grown man. He just started His gospel ministry. He called five disciples in the previous chapter. Jesus told Mary that His "hour" had not come. When the word "hour" appears in the gospel of John, it often refers to Jesus' death and His subsequent resurrection. For example, 13:1 reads: **Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father...** The context is the Last Supper. Jesus understood that He would be arrested a few hours later and be nailed to the cross the next day. All in all, Jesus was telling Mary that supplying wine to the wedding guests had nothing to do with His mission on earth. However, we shall see that Jesus met their need anyway. We will explore His reason for doing so in a moment. Keep in mind that Mary did not expect Jesus to perform a miracle. Her request was more like: "Son, please do something!" Perhaps she thought Jesus could send His disciples to look for wine nearby. After Mary explained the situation, she turned to the servants and told them

to follow whatever instructions Jesus might give them. Mary then walked away. She trusted that Jesus could figure out a solution. That is a good reminder to us that we should show faith as we pray. God has mighty power to solve any problem we may have. Therefore, the question is not whether or not God can fulfill our needs. He will if He is willing. The question is whether or not we have patience to wait on God and whether or not we are satisfied with the answer from Him. Besides, by attending the feast, Jesus obeyed the customs of the people He came to serve and save. To our Lord, going to parties was a way to do ministry. Some Christians mistakenly believe that it is against the Bible to have fun. When you break down the word “recreation” you will get re-creation. Leisure activities can rest our minds and bodies so that we will be reenergized when we get back to daily routines. I see movies, listen to music and watch sports in my free time. We can have fun even when we are in the church too! It is not just about playing pickleball. A month ago, some young people led songs. We had fun when we sang. After all, this is a sanctuary, not a cemetery! Besides, we have dinner almost every Friday. We organize potlucks every now and then. Eating is more than filling our stomachs. It is a time to connect. We chat about what is going on in our lives. We can seize opportunities and talk about Jesus with seeker friends too. When I first became a believer, a late pastor in my home church shared the gospel at weddings and funerals, and just about every gathering he was invited to speak. He learned it from Jesus. If our Lord could talk about faith wherever He met people, then so should we.

## 2. Magnificent Wine 美酒

The wedding banquet was deficient in wine. People might wonder where to get help. Little did they know that Jesus was about to offer a magnificent wine. He asked the servants to fill six pots with water. John says those pots contained water for purification purposes. It can mean cleaning utensils and washing hands before eating. Jesus then asked the attendants to draw some water out and give it to the master of the ceremony. The man tasted it and noticed that it was wine. Not just ordinary wine, but it was a magnificent one! Without a doubt, it was a miracle. Jesus added carbon to water and rearranged its molecular structure to become ethanol. The master of the ceremony then pulled the groom aside and said to him in verse 10: ... **“Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”** He thought the groom defied commonsense by saving the best wine to the end. Suppose you go to a Chinese banquet. Usually there will be chicken, duck and fish, followed by mushroom and veggies. You know that there are no more goodies when fruit comes to the table. You may skip the oranges before you leave. What if the waiters bring out lobster and roasted pig next? Some guests may grumble and wonder why those dishes were not served earlier. Of course, smart people will quickly ask for some to-go boxes and take some delicacies home! Jesus broke the norm because He only gave the best blessings. Everyone noticed that the last batch of wine was superior. Naturally, they asked the groom where it came from. But that is not John’s focus. He puts the attention on the disciples. Look at verse 11: **“This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.”** They knew what had happened and they believed in Jesus as a result. What did they believe about Jesus? The disciples had yet to recognize that He was the Messiah, namely, the Savior. It was not until after Jesus’ resurrection that they finally connected the dots. For the time being, they might only believe that Jesus had power to change water to wine. This was the first of the seven miracles John recorded in his gospel. He calls those supernatural acts “signs.” Signs provide information. Drivers pay attention to road-signs about speed limits, directions or construction, etc. A sign

points you to something important. Changing water to wine was more than about refilling the drink. It revealed the nature and work of Jesus. He has supernatural power because He is God. He came not to give free drink but to save mankind. Jesus hoped that people would believe in Him by observing what He did. The disciples were on the right track, although their faith must keep growing. Compared to those men, other people seem to overlook the significance of the miracle. They were happy to have the best wine to enjoy. Do we often misplace our focus like those people in the story did? God gives us signs over and over again to prove that He is still active in the world and in our lives. God wants to increase our faith when He answers our prayers. We should not keep our eyes on the result and forget the reason why God helps us. Similarly, He hopes to generate faith in those who do not know Jesus. It should create interest about God when they witness His power. Through such interaction, God wants people to realize that He loves them. He wants to draw them closer to Him and eventually to receive Him.

## CONCLUSION 結論

Jesus shows His glory so that people will come to know His story. He wished that this last wine He supplied would last in people's minds. Jesus gave people a sign as He began His ministries. He changed the nature of water by supernatural power. He caused something ordinary to become extraordinary. He could change you to a new person too! Unlike the man in the following story, you must get rid of the bad habits and submit yourself to the Lord. A policeman stopped a car because it was swinging from side to side. The driver turned out to be a priest. The cop signaled the driver to lower his window. Just then, he could smell the odor of alcohol. To make the matter worse, he saw a wine bottle on the passenger seat. He asked politely: "Father, I notice that you are driving irregularly. Have you been drinking?" The priest denied: "Of course not." The cop pointed to the bottle and asked: "Then what is that, and why do I smell alcohol?" The priest excused himself again: "Oh, that? It just contains water." He then picked up the bottle and took a sniff. He exclaimed: "Oh no! The Lord did it again!" Besides paying a huge fine, the man had to correct his drinking problem too. Today, you may be struggling with other issues, perhaps it is bitterness about the past, anxiety about the future, bad temper or bad mouth. No matter what it is, bring it to God. Just like Mary approached Jesus, we say to Him: "Lord, I need Your help!" If Jesus is not your Lord, He can give you a new life if you accept Him into your heart by faith. The same Lord told the disciples at the Last Supper that He would establish a new covenant with them. He raised a cup of wine and said to them: "This cup represents the blood I will shed for you. I will not drink it with you again until we meet in my Father's Kingdom." That last cup of wine points to an eternal celebration that will last forever.

## INTRODUCTION 引言

這個故事是關於耶穌在一場婚宴中所行的第一個神蹟。事情發生在加利利的迦拿，那是一個位於拿撒勒以北約九英里的小村莊，也是耶穌的家鄉附近。主、祂的母親以及祂的門徒都受邀參加這場宴會。在當時，婚宴通常會邀請全村的所有人一同參與的。新郎的家庭要負責所有的費用。視其經濟狀況而定，婚宴可能持續幾天，甚至長達一整個星期。除了食物之外，酒是不可缺少的。當時的酒通常會加水稀釋，濃度只有原來的三分之一到十分之一，比今天一般的啤酒還要淡。有一點需要強調的是，聖經並沒有禁止飲酒，但神警告人不可醉酒。再好的東西，過量也會帶來傷害。這個故事中的問題並不是狂飲，而是酒用完了。對於雙方家庭來說，沒有酒招待賓客將是一件極其難堪的事，人們會一直記得他們的失敗。你知道這個問題最後是如何解決的：耶穌出手相助，當人們需要酒的時候，祂供應了酒。這讓我想起一個啤酒廣告。在一場後院派對上，一位男士告訴朋友們，他最近收養了一隻名叫「Wego」的流浪狗。朋友們好奇那是個多麼奇怪的名字。那個人說，這隻狗或許長得不怎麼好看，但牠卻能做出奇妙的事。他鼓勵朋友們試著叫狗過來，於是有人喊：「Wego，過來！」那隻狗跑了過來，牠的嘴裡還叼著六瓶裝的啤酒。這正是那個廣告的標語：「Here, we go！」然而，與那隻狗所做的相比，耶穌的目的並不是拯救一場派對。祂彰顯自己的榮耀，為的是讓人認識祂的故事。

## EXPLANATION 解釋

### 1. Deficient in Wine 沒酒

在這段經文中，婚宴上顯然沒有酒。按理說，這是新郎應該負責的事情，但在第 3 節，馬利亞卻去向耶穌求助。這暗示馬利亞可能在這次宴會中負責某些事情。耶穌在第 4 節的回應乍聽之下似乎有些奇怪：...「母親（原文作婦人），我與你有什麼相干？我的時候還沒有到。」首先，稱呼自己的母親為「婦人」聽起來好像很不禮貌。然而，這樣的稱呼其實類似於美國南部有些人稱呼父母為「先生」或「女士」，是一種尊敬的說法。因此，耶穌並不是不尊重馬利亞，祂也沒有因為那個請求而感到不耐煩。這個時候的耶穌已經成年，並且剛開始祂的福音事工。在前一章中，祂呼召了五位門徒。耶穌告訴馬利亞，祂的「時候」還沒有到。在約翰福音中，「時候」這個字往往指的是耶穌的受死以及隨後的復活。例如 13:1 記載：逾越節以前，耶穌知道自己離世歸父的時候到了...。那裡的背景是最後的晚餐。耶穌清楚知道，幾個小時後祂將被逮捕，第二天祂就要被釘在十字架上。總個來說，耶穌是在告訴馬利亞，為賓客提供酒，與祂來到世上的使命並沒有直接關連。然而，我

們接下來會看到，耶穌仍然供應他們的需要。我們稍後會探討祂這麼做的原因。請注意，馬利亞並不是期待耶穌行一個神蹟。她的請求更像是在說：「兒子，請你想想辦法吧！」也許她以為耶穌可以差遣門徒到附近去找酒。當馬利亞把情況說明之後，她轉身吩咐僕人們，要他們照耶穌所說的去做，然後她便離開了。她相信耶穌能夠想出解決的方法。這對我們是一個很好的提醒：我們在禱告中也應該表現出信心。神有大能，能夠解決我們的任何困難。因此，問題不是在於神能不能供應我們的需要—如果祂願意，祂一定能夠。真正的問題在於，我們是否有耐心等候神，以及我們是否願意順服於祂所給的答案。此外，耶穌參加這場婚宴，也表明祂遵循了祂所要服事與拯救之人的風俗習慣。對我們的主而言，參加派對也是一種事奉。有些基督徒誤以為娛樂是不合乎聖經的。其實，把「recreation」（休閒）這個字拆開來看，就是「re-creation」（重新得力）。休閒活動能讓我們的身心休息，好使我們回到日常生活時再次得著力量。我在空閒時會看電影、聽音樂、看球賽。我們在教會裡也同樣可以有樂趣！這不只是打匹克球而已。一個月前，有一些年輕人帶領詩歌，我們在歌唱中充滿喜樂。畢竟，這裡是聖所，不是墓園！此外，我們幾乎每個星期五都一起吃晚餐，也不時舉辦愛筵聚餐。吃飯不只是填飽肚子，更是一個彼此連結的機會。我們聊個人生活中的事情，我們也可以趁這個機會，向福音朋友談論耶穌。在我剛信主時，教會的一位已故的牧師，無論是在婚禮、喪禮，還是幾乎所有受邀發言的聚會中，都會分享福音。他是向耶穌學習的。如果我們的主能在任何場合與人談論信仰，那麼我們也應該如此做。

## 2. Magnificent Wine 美酒

婚宴上沒有酒，人們或許在想該到哪裡尋求幫助。他們卻萬萬沒有想到，耶穌即將提供上好的美酒。祂吩咐僕人把六口缸都盛滿水。約翰說，那些缸原是為潔淨之用的，可能是用來清洗器皿，或是在用餐前洗手。接著，耶穌吩咐僕人舀一些水出來，送給宴席的總管。那個人一嘗，發現那是酒，而且不是普通的酒，而是極好的美酒！毫無疑問，這是一個神蹟。耶穌在水中加入了碳，重新排列其分子結構，使之成為酒精。宴席的總管便把新郎叫到一旁，在第 10 節對他說：...「人都是先擺上好酒，等客喝足了，才擺上次的，你倒把好酒留到如今！」他以為新郎不按理出牌，把最好的酒留到最後。想像一下，你去參加一場中式宴席，通常會先上雞、鴨、魚，接著是香菇和蔬菜。當水果被端上來時，你就知道已經沒有什麼好菜了，你在離開前甚至可能連橘子都不想吃。但如果這時侍應生忽然端出龍蝦和烤乳豬呢？有些客人可能會抱怨，為什麼這些好菜不早點上？當然，聰明的人會立刻要打包盒，把美味佳餚帶回家！耶穌打破了社會的慣例，因為祂只給人最好的祝福。所有人都能看出，最後那一批酒是最上等的，他們自然就會問新郎酒是從哪裡來的。但這並不是約翰的重點。他把焦點放在門徒身上。請看第 11 節：這是耶穌所行的頭一件神蹟，是在加利利的迦拿行的，顯出他的榮耀來；他的門徒就信他了。他們知道發生了什麼事，因此就信了耶穌。那麼，他們信耶穌的什麼呢？到目前為止，

門徒尚未真正認出耶穌就是彌賽亞，也就是救主。直到主復活之後，他們才終於把一切線索連接起來。就當時而言，他們可能只是相信耶穌有能力把水變成酒。這是約翰在福音書中所記錄的七個神蹟中的第一個，他把這些超自然的作為稱為「記號」(signs)。記號是用來傳遞訊息的。開車的人會留意路標，上面標示速限、方向或施工情況等。記號是指向某些重要的事情。水變酒不只是為了補充飲料，它揭示了耶穌的本質與祂的工作。祂有超自然的能力，因為祂是神。祂來不是為了供應免費酒水，而是為了拯救人類。耶穌盼望人們藉著觀察祂所做的事而相信祂。門徒的思路是正確的，雖然他們的信心仍需要不斷成長。相比之下，其他人似乎忽略了這個神蹟的真正意義。他們只滿足於能喝到最好的酒。我們是否也常常像故事中的那些人一樣，把焦點放錯了地方？神一次又一次地給我們記號，表明祂仍然在世界中、也在我們的生命中作工。當神回應我們的禱告時，祂是要增加我們的信心。我們不應只盯著結果，卻忘了神幫助我們的真正目的。同樣地，神也盼望在那些還不認識耶穌的人身上產生信心。當他們見證神的大能時，應該對神產生興趣。透過這樣的互動，神要人明白祂愛他們，祂願意吸引他們更親近祂，最終接受祂。

## CONCLUSION 結論

耶穌彰顯自己的榮耀，為的是讓人認識祂的故事。祂盼望祂所供應的最後那批酒，能長久留在人們的記憶中。耶穌在祂事工開始之初，賜給人們一個記號。祂以超自然的能力改變了水的本質，使平凡的事物變得不平凡。同樣地，祂也能改變你，使你成為一個新造的人！但不像下面故事中的那個人，你必須除去舊有的壞習慣，並且順服在主的權柄之下。有一位警察攔下一輛左右搖擺行駛的車子，他發現司機竟然是一位神父。警察示意他搖下車窗，他立刻聞到一股酒味。更糟的是，他看到副駕駛座上放著一個酒瓶。警察客氣地問：「神父，我注意到你開車不太穩定。你是不是喝了酒？」神父否認說：「當然沒有。」警察指著那個瓶子又問：「那是什麼？為什麼我聞到酒味？」神父再次解釋：「喔，那個啊？裡面裝的只是水而已。」於是他拿起瓶子聞了一下，然後驚訝地叫起來：「天啊！主又行了同樣的神蹟！」除了得繳一大筆交通罰款之外，這位神父也必須改正喝酒的問題。今天，你也可能正在為一些事情掙扎—也許是對過去的苦毒、對未來的焦慮、暴躁的脾氣，或是不適當的言語。不論是什麼，把它帶到神面前吧。就像馬利亞來到耶穌面前一樣，我們對祂說：「主啊，我需要你的幫助！」如果耶穌不是你的主，只要你憑信心接受祂進入你的心裡，祂能賜給你新的生命。同一位主，在最後的晚餐中告訴門徒，祂要與他們建立新的約。祂舉起一杯酒，對他們說：「這個杯代表我將為你們所流的血；我不再喝這杯，直到我在我父的國裡與你們再喝的那日。」那最後的一杯酒，指向一個永恆的筵席—一場將持續到永遠的慶典。