

January 19, 2025 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

**WINE FOR ALL, SALVATION FOR ALL by Pastor
Julio Romero**

Gospel: John 2:1-11

The memories of last Christmas are still fresh in our minds. It was less than four weeks ago that we celebrated the birth of baby Jesus, and only two weeks since the celebration of Epiphany Sunday, when the story of the visit of the Wisemen to the baby occupies a central place. And now, here we are, reading about a grown-up Jesus at a wedding, about to perform his first miracle.

The Wedding at Cana holds significant meaning, and it is interesting that the account of this miracle doesn't align with what God had originally planned. Jesus himself knew that this was not how he intended to begin his ministry. So, how does the miracle of turning water into wine fit with the proclamation Jesus made when marking the beginning of his ministry in Nazareth, where he said, as recounted in Luke:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

In this proclamation, there is nothing about turning water into wine. However, even though this miracle doesn't come close to the Lord's mission on earth, it is still Good News for the people at the wedding and for all of us.

The miracle is a powerful example of God's grace. Think about what was happening at that wedding. Wine, both then and now, is a central part of any wedding celebration. What would a wedding be without wine—especially in Israel? The wedding planner had to ensure there was enough wine for the entire celebration, which could last several days. Running out of wine would be a shameful disaster, ruining the entire event.

Consider this: what could those people at the wedding have done to deserve such favor from the Lord Jesus? He saved the celebration, providing at least 180 gallons of the finest wine they had ever tasted.

It's important to remember that the guests at the wedding weren't there to serve others, to raise money for a charity, or to worship Jesus. They were there simply to celebrate—to enjoy music, dancing, and fun. No wonder Jesus said to His mother, Mary, *“What concern is that to you and to me that they have no more wine?”* Yet, despite this, Jesus was moved by compassion and performed His first miracle, revealing His divine nature and power. He went ahead and provided the wine, ensuring the celebration would continue and the joy of the people would not end.

What Jesus did there is the very definition of “grace.” The miracle of turning water into wine was an act of grace from God. The people at that party did nothing to deserve or earn His favor. In fact, who knows what kind of people were present at the wedding who tasted and got happier and happier with God's wine that day? Providing 180 gallons of wine suggests there was a large crowd. Were they all godly and righteous? Probably not. But Jesus didn't say, “Give it only to those good people over there.” Instead, He made the wine for everyone, without exception. Isn't that amazing? Everyone at the wedding received the same gift of wine from Jesus. No one was excluded.

The Lord Jesus made the wine for everyone without exception, and salvation is the same. Our salvation is not based on what we do or can do for God, but on what God has done for us. All we have to do is believe and have faith. When we have faith in God and in our Lord Jesus, good works and good deeds naturally flow from us, even though we are not perfect people. It is faith that enables us to walk in a right relationship with God. This is why we must value our faith and nurture its growth.

The gift of wine at the wedding in Cana came from the One who is a gift from God to us. In Cana, this gift was no longer a baby; He was a grown man, continually giving and giving abundantly. And as we know, His giving never stops.

There's a story about a man named Rowland Hill, who was entrusted with a large sum of money to give to a poor man. Thinking the amount was too much to give all at once, Hill sent a portion along with a note that simply read, “More to follow.” In a few days, the man received another envelope with the same amount and the same message, “More to follow.” This continued until the entire sum had been given.

Unlike this story, the way the Lord gives is different: there is no end to His giving. Jesus keeps on giving, His miracles never stop, and His blessings never cease. With God, there will always be another miracle, another blessing—it will never end.

C. H. Spurgeon once said: “When God forgives our sins, there’s more forgiveness to follow. He justifies us in the righteousness of Christ, but there’s more to follow. He adopts us into His family, but there’s more to follow. He prepares us for heaven, but there’s more to follow. He gives us grace, but there’s more to follow. He helps us into old age, but there’s still more to follow... Even when we arrive in the world to come, there will still be more to follow.”

Just as there was enough wine for all the guests at Cana, so too are there countless blessings for us. How many times have we felt like we’ve run out of the “wine” of life, or that we’ve reached the end of our journey, only to be surprised that there is more to follow?

I invite you to see yourselves as the guests at the wedding in Cana, where Jesus, through the gift of abundant wine, announced to the world that the Savior, the giver of abundant life and gifts, had entered the world to bless us all. In Jesus Christ, the gift of life never ends—there is always more to follow. **Amen.**