JESUS THE TRANSFORMER
(John 2:1-11)

INTRODUCTION:

In John 2 we have Jesus’ first miracle that is recorded in the Bible. It happened at a wedding feast where he turned water into wine. (READ)

Do you believe in miracles? Yes, you say. We live in an age of skepticism about miracles.

One day this skeptic was heckling a pastor about his views on miracles. "Give me one concrete example of a miracle," asked the skeptic. "Do you really know what a miracle is anyway? Just give me one concrete example," the man taunted the preacher. Whereupon the pastor hauled off and kicked the skeptic furiously on the shin.

The skeptic couldn't believe it! He didn’t expect the pastor to do that.

The pastor asked, "Did you feel that?"

"Yes," the man said as he nursed his sore leg.

"If you had not," said the pastor, "that would have been a miracle."

Do you believe in miracles? Do you need a miracle in your life?

In this miracle Jesus turns the water into wine. In the passage we will see that Jesus is the ultimate Transformer. He can take the ordinary and transform it into something extraordinary. He can take an empty container and fill to the brim with water and change it into wine.

The Transformers series follows the continuing battle between the Autobots and the Decepticons and ultimately, the triumph of good over evil. The Autobots led by Optimus Prime and Decepticons, led by Megatron

The transformer movies are about aliens who come to earth and can transform themselves from ordinary looking cars, trucks and vehicles and then turn themselves into fighting machines. Jesus is not an alien, nor does he transform himself into a fighting machine. But he did
come from the Father to transform this world into what it was created to be. He specifically came to transform lives into the people of God.

There is more to this passage than that Jesus is the ultimate Transformer. Let’s look at Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding feast in Cana to see what other things it can teach us about Jesus?

REVIEW THE DETAILS OF THE STORY

Let’s review the details of the story. Jesus and his disciples, which were only 5 at this point (Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathaniel, and John - according to chapter 1), were invited to go to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Cana was a few miles from Nazareth and it would have taken about 3 days walking from the Jerusalem area where Jesus was the John the Baptist and had called his first disciples. Mary his mother was already there at the wedding. She probably was a relative of the groom, since she is helping host the wedding feast.

A wedding feast in those days was somewhat different than ours today. It starts with the friends of the groom going to the groom’s house and then the groom and his friends go to the bride’s house. No doubt there was some type of ceremony there. Then the groom would take the bride and all the friends to the wedding feast at another location. The feast was a very important event. It could last up to seven days. The groom’s and his family’s reputation rested on how well the feast went and were all the guest well pleased.

At this wedding party there arose a crisis. They ran out of wine for the guests to drink. This was more than a very embarrassing situation. It was a situation where they family could suffer liability. We don’t know why they ran out of wine. Maybe it was because more guests came than expected. It is hard to know how many invited guest will show up at a wedding. Maybe it was because the bride and groom’s families were poor and couldn’t afford enough wine for a week. We don’t know why it happened, it just happened.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was aware of the situation and she went to Jesus to get his help. Upon realizing this she went to Jesus to let him know the situation. Note that she didn’t ask Jesus to work a miracle; she just let him know the problem. She knew that Jesus would know what to do. But Jesus knew it wasn’t time for him to publically display his miraculous powers. His time hasn’t come yet. Again Mary didn’t know what he would do, but she knew that he would do something, so she told the servants to follow whatever instructions he gave them.

Jesus saw 6 water jars which could contain 20 to 30 gallons each. They were used to hold water for Jewish ceremonial washings. Jesus told them to fill them up. They filled them to the brim. Certainly 120 to 180 gallons of wine ought
to take care of the situation. Thus he changed the water into wine and told the servants to take some to the master of the banquet. The master of the banquet tasted the wine and it was the best he had ever tasted and he commended the groom that he had saved the best to the last.

The apostle John then adds a comment saying that this was the first miraculous sign Jesus had done thus revealing his glory and the disciples “put their faith in him” or believed in him.

OBSERVATIONS AND LESSONS

Now what are some observations and lessons from this passage? When we read the Scriptures we should get in the habit of thinking about what it is teaching and what significance can be drawn from the passage. There are several observations and applications. Here are few I came up with.

First, as almost a side point, this shows that Jesus didn’t work miracles as a child or youth. There are some “apocryphal” gospels, which tell of Jesus as a child creating birds out of stones, etc. are false. Jesus grew up as a normal person. John says clearly that this is the 1st miracle Jesus worked.

Second, attending this wedding feast shows that Jesus affirms the sanctity of marriage as a divine institution. The first public event of Jesus’ ministry was to attend a wedding. This is significant. The first work of God after creating Adam was to create Eve and then perform the first wedding by bringing them together. Jesus’ first event was to attend a wedding. Marriage is God’s idea, not man and it should be regulated by God’s standards, not man’s. Jesus was invited to this wedding. In my pre-martial counseling with couples I use this passage to show them the importance of inviting Jesus to their wedding. Only as a couple make Jesus the head of the home can there be a godly home.

Third, we can get some insight into how we can pray from Mary notifying Jesus about the wine situation. Again notice that Mary didn’t ask Jesus to turn the water into wine. She didn’t really ask him to do anything. She just told him about the problem. When we have a problem in life we are to come to Jesus to let him know about it. We don’t have to tell him what to do for we may not know how to solve the problem, but Jesus does. Much of our praying should be just telling Jesus about our problem. He will know what to do.

\[I\ must\ tell\ Jesus\ all\ of\ my\ trials;\]
\[I\ cannot\ bear\ these\ burdens\ alone;\]
\[In\ my\ distress\ He\ kindly\ will\ help\ me;\]
\[He\ ever\ loves\ and\ cares\ for\ His\ own\]
Fourth, Jesus wants us to be filled with joy. A wedding is a time of joy and wine is a symbol for joy and celebration in the Bible. To look and to listen at some Christians you would think that joy is not part of the Christian experience. We go around with strained looks and negative talk. But Jesus is the great Joy-Giver. He wants his followers to be joyful; to be filled with His joy. How much wine did Jesus create? John tells us that there were 6 jars which held between 20-30 gallons of water each. Jesus made between 120 to 180 gallons of wine. This certainly was over abundantly enough. Jesus wants us to have fullness of joy.

Jesus repeatedly mentions wanting us to have fullness of joy.

*(John 15:11 NKJV)* """These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

What is joy? Joy is not happiness. Happiness is dependent on circumstances. Happiness can come and go depending on what is happening to us. But joy is constant. Joy comes from a sense of inner well-being, not a sense of outward circumstances. Joy comes from a sense of our identity in Christ. Joy comes from a relationship not from our circumstances. Joy is a spiritual gift. Jesus gives us joy, because He is the one who makes us right with God and gives us our identity as the children of God. He is the One who is with us always. It is the joy that Jesus gives because He is the Joy-Giver.

*If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy;*  
*Let Jesus come into your heart;*  
*If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy;*  
*Let Jesus come into your heart.*

*Your sins He'll wash away,*  
*Your night He'll turn to day,*  
*Your life He'll make it over anew;*  
*If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy;*  
*Let Jesus come into your heart.*

Fifth, Jesus is the Great Transformer. Jesus didn’t come to give us new information, He came to transform people into something they were not. He came to change things. I believe that this may be the main point of John recording this miracle. John calls this miracle a “sign” in verse 11. A sign is an object or event that points to something beyond it. A road sign is something that gives information about what is ahead. This miracle of turning the water into wine points to Jesus. It tells us something about Jesus.

He is the One who can take the ordinary and turn into something beautiful. He also can take something ugly and turn it into something beautiful. He turned the legalism into grace, sinners into saints, fear into courage, sorrow into joy, defeat into victory, despair into hope and death into life.
Jesus is the great Transformer. He can transform your life into something beautiful. I like the Bill Gaither song that use to be popular years ago, “Something beautiful”

_Something beautiful, something good_  
_All my confusion He understood_  
_All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife_  
_But he made something beautiful of my life_

For Jesus to transform your life, just offer Him your brokenness and strife. He will transform it into something beautiful. Jesus is the Transformer.

Sixth, in God’s plan for your life _the best is always yet to come_. Note that this was the main point that the master of the feast said to the bridegroom in verse 10:

_And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

_There was this Christian lady who had a terminal illness and she asked your pastor to come so she could share her funeral service wishes. She told him the songs, the scriptures, and things like that. Just before he was ready to leave she said, “Oh there is one more thing which is very important. I want you to have them put a fork in my right hand as I am in the casket.” She said, “That probably puzzles you, don’t it?” He said, “Yes, why would you want a fork in your hand?” She said, “Well at church dinners and potluck as the main dishes were cleared away, my mother would always lean over and say “Keep your fork.” I knew what that meant. Something good was coming, like cake, or pies, etc.” I want people to see that fork in my hand and ask, “What does this mean?” You can tell them in your message that I know that the best is yet to come. You can tell them that this lady knew that heaven was going to better than life on earth and to see Jesus will be the best yet.”_

When you hold a fork awaiting desert, just be reminded that the best is yet to come.

The seventh observation is related to the “best yet to come” thought. There is a wedding feast that we are all invited to and that is the marriage supper of the Lamb as described in Revelation 19. This is something to look forward to. This is when all the saints of God, all the Old Testament believers, all the New Testament believers, all believers from Adam on will gather around the banqueting table of
the Lamb and celebrate His victory over evil, sin, and death. What a day of rejoicing that will be.

CONCLUSION

Now we come to the overall application of this passage. John mentions that in this miracle Jesus revealed his glory and the disciples believed or put their trust in him. It doesn’t say that the master of the banquet believed, or that the groom believed, or that the servants believed. We don’t know for sure about these. Maybe they did. But if they never came to faith in Jesus, it shows that just seeing a miracle doesn’t guarantee faith. It is seeing or experiencing a miracle and seeing the glory of Christ through it.

What did the disciples see in Jesus when they saw this miracle? They saw Jesus as the one who knew what to do when we are in crisis. They saw Jesus as invited Head of every marriage which God ordains. They saw Jesus as the great Giver of Joy. They saw Jesus as the ultimate Transformer of our lives. They saw Jesus as the fulfilment of the best that God has for us. They saw Jesus as the heavenly Bridegroom who invites us to be part of his wedding feast when He returns to claim His victory over all. In other words they beheld the glory of the One and Only Son of God whom the Father sent, the One full of grace and truth.

What about you? What do you see in Jesus? Have you experienced Him as the One who has transformed your life? Have you experienced Him as the Giver of Joy? Have you experienced Him as your spiritual Bridegroom?

If you haven’t experienced Him in these ways, you can. Come to Jesus with your needs, your broken life and give yourself to Him. Put you faith and trust in Him and He will reveal his glory to you. He will transform your life.

Amen? Amen!