

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons
John 2:1-12
Sunday, March 18, 2012
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Five Questions for Discussion
and Thinking Further**

1. Why do you think Jesus performed His first miracle or “sign” at a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee?

Jesus always responded to real human needs in the wisest way when His ministry began (and we can believe this was His habit prior to the beginning of His public ministry). It was not His hour or time to call wide public attention to the fact that He was the Messiah and Son of God, which eventually led to His crucifixion. However, He could find a way to help the wedding couple without drawing inappropriate public attention to himself at that time. Since Jesus is the Bridegroom and His Church is the Bride

of Christ, His miracle shows that He has the power and wisdom to meet the needs of His Church and bring His followers happiness beyond their expectations. Of course, Jesus' heavenly Father arranged for the time and place of this miracle and Jesus always did what His heavenly Father wanted Him to do.

2. Why do you think Jesus used the purification jars to change water to wine?

Practically speaking, the jars were there, they were large, they were clean. Jesus was and became the better way of purification, of forgiving and cleansing from sin. He was a better way to meet real human needs than the way of ritual and water that the religious leaders of His day prescribed; just as His wine was the best wine at the wedding feast.

3. In what ways did Jesus avoid showing favoritism when He worked His miracle?

He did not work the miracle because His mother asked Him, that could be considered showing favoritism. He did not have an obligation to be certain that the feast had plenty of wine because of any relationship He might have had with the bridegroom (perhaps the bridegroom was Nathanael, as Christian tradition, but not the Bible, speculates), that might be considered showing favoritism. As Jesus responded to real human needs, so He will respond to our needs. Because of Jesus and the obedience of the servants, He met the needs of the wedding feast. Sometimes He will meet our needs because of the obedience of His servants and not because He has an obligation to help us.

4. What lessons can we learn from the servants who put water in the jars?

The servants obeyed Jesus exactly as He commanded and they obeyed Him immediately. As His disciples, we need to learn to do as they did. In this way, Jesus can do His work with us and through us with our cooperation and obedience, rather than in spite of us or in spite of our refusal to do what He asks of us.

5. Why do you think John emphasized that the disciples believed in Him after He performed the sign?

The disciples had heard John's testimony that Jesus was the Lamb of God. They had listened to Jesus' teachings as they travelled from the River Jordan to Cana of Galilee. They had eaten with Him and stayed with Him. But, they had not seen Jesus demonstrate His power to help others in need. Through His first sign, Jesus showed them that His heavenly Father endorsed and supported Him, His teachings, and His way. Therefore, they had good and sufficient reasons to believe in Him and they did.

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