



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Scripture: John 2:1-12

TITLE: No Illusion

My family loves a good magic show. We've been able to see some beginning magic at local events while also seeing some top-tier illusionists perform incredible illusions before our very eyes. But at the end of every show, we say, "Okay, how do you think he did that trick?" In other words, we know it was fake. It wasn't real.

Many people view Jesus' and the works He performed as an illusion. But should they?

Let's turn to John 2 as we continue our study of the Book of John. John 2:3-12.

This is likely a very familiar passage to you. Jesus and his disciples, likely Peter, John (the writer), Phillip, Andrew, and Nathanael are attending a wedding with Jesus' mother, Mary. Let's pick it up in verse 3

When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "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." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

The wedding party runs out of wine. Now, this seems trivial, but in an honor/shame culture, this was a big deal. Weddings were long ordeals and for a family to provide food and wine for many days was a huge burden. So to run out was not going to help their value in the community.

So mother asks Jesus for help. When we read Jesus' response, it seems cold and rude. It's not. There isn't a good English word or expression. It's the same word Jesus' uses when addressing

Mary from the cross. It's both formal, respectful, and caring. He reminds her that His mission was to be the Messiah.

And He would prove his identity in His teaching and actions. It's here we see Jesus' first recorded miracle. He turns the water into wine. This was no illusion. The jars were filled with water to the brim. Upon delivery of the wine, it was the best. Not watered-down junk. It was a miracle, and that's the point. Jesus was not an illusionist. He was God-in-the-flesh. This was evidence of His identity.

And there's likely more here. The ceremonial water for cleaning was just that. It was ceremonial. It had no soul-saving power. But Jesus came to shed His blood for our sake. No show. No illusion. Real forgiveness. Real salvation. That's Jesus.

So my challenge for you today is to believe. John wrote this gospel so we might believe in Jesus. Jesus didn't come to wow us. He didn't come for the greatest show on earth. He came to save people from their sins. I believe this. Do you?