

Chris Murphy

June 21st, 2026

Sermon Text: John 2: 1-11

Sermon Title: Water Into Wine

John 2:1-11

The Wedding at Cana

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you?[a] My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. 9 When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know

where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Prayer...

Introduction:

I shared a couple weeks ago that doing a sermon series on John’s Gospel puts me in a good mood. Stories of Jesus tend to bring me hope and encouragement, so walking our way through the Gospel of John during this summer, is a lot of fun for me. Our story today about Jesus turning water into wine really puts me in a good mood, partly because I have a love of good wine. Karen, Cate, Chiara, and I just

got back from a nice vacation and retreat in Southern California.

When we lived in California about eleven years ago, my love of wine

had not yet matured. Karen and I visited Napa Valley once and we

occasionally enjoyed a sangria on a hot day, but it was not until we

moved to Newberg and started to visit the vast number of wineries in

our area that I developed my love of wine. Now, I am a bit of a wine

snob. I confess it is true. I prefer a flavorful Pinot Noir to Merlot. I

enjoy the cool taste of Riesling, while looking over the lush

Willamette Valley. Gone are the days when I am satisfied with Two

buck chuck at Trader Joe's. If you would like to ask Karen and I to go

wine tasting with you, our answer is inevitably yes.

And the good news in our story today, is Jesus may be a wine snob

as well. For his first sign, really his first recorded miracle in the

Gospel of John, Jesus turns water into wine. And this is not any

ordinary wine. This is the good stuff. This is probably Pinot Noir from

Willamette Valley. I am pretty sure. Scripture does not say where it

came from, so maybe Jesus produced a future variation of wine and made it appear in his own day. Who knows?

What is fun about this story is that it shows Jesus is not the somber oriented savior he is sometimes portrayed as in old movies. No, he enjoys a good party and makes the best wine. The author of John's Gospel tells this story to encourage us to believe in Jesus and to follow him.

One humorous aspect of this story is that Jesus is a bit reluctant to do the miracle. He needs his mom Mary to encourage him to do it. Have you ever been somewhere with your mom and she is like; I need you to do something for me. The proper answer is always, absolutely mom, whatever you need. Jesus is a little direct with Mary when she asks him to help with the wine situation at the party. He initially is reluctant, but his mom Mary just ignores Jesus's reluctance. She has that mother's intuition that it is the time for her son to show his stuff. She tells the servants to do whatever Jesus

tells them to do and Jesus follows the guidance of his mom and gets to work. “Whatever you say mom? I got this.”

The gift of the wonderful wine not only prevents the shame of the family who is hosting the wedding party, it also speaks to the gift of joy that Jesus brings to his followers. Jesus loves a good party. He brings abundant life. What a nice way to begin his ministry by helping bring joy to many and as a special blessing for a new marriage.

When Jesus follows the advice of his Mother Mary, I wonder if Mary is also like a good parent nudging her son to do a bit of adulting.

Mary seems to know that it is Jesus’ time even before he knows it.

Do you notice who is not at the party? We do not see Joseph, which probably means that Joseph is deceased. Mary knows that it is time for Jesus in some ways to become his own man, so to speak, to take up his calling as a rabbi and ultimately as the Messiah.

Jesus no doubt learned a lot from Joseph growing up. Joseph was a carpenter by trade, so Jesus would have also learned to work with stone and wood. I wonder what it was like for Jesus when Joseph died. Joseph was his primary male figure to look up to. When Joseph died, Jesus must have felt deeply troubled. I also think it likely made Jesus even more of a Momma's boy and I mean that in the best sense of the word. He really loved his Mama and wanted to do whatever she wanted him to do.

My Grandfather Franklin Murphy grew up in a rich family in Chicago, Illinois, but after his father's unexpected death, Franklin had to take over leadership of his home, with his mom and two other younger brothers. My Grandpa Murphy was only 17 years old when his dad died. Instead of going from rags to riches, he kind of went from riches to rags, although with hard work and a renewal of his Christian faith, God provided for the Murphy family. Eventually my grandfather met a spunky woman named Dorothy, who he loved

dearly. My Grandpa and Grandma welcomed the first of four wonderful kids in 1942. This first child and only son was a precocious guy named Bruce Gordon Murphy.

On Father's Day, I like to remember all the men who have influenced me. My Dad Bruce has and always will be the most influential man in my life. I know there are a lot of good dads out there, but for me, my dad will always be the best ever. And he comes from good stock, Grandpa Murphy went through a lot of loss as a young man and he would become a great leader of the Murphy family, teaching my dad the importance of integrity, grit, faith, and kindness. We have a lot of stories about Grandpa Murphy. He was quite an athlete. He once bowled a 300 in a bowling tournament. He was an avid baseball player and would take my dad to watch Ernie Banks play in Wrigley field for the Chicago Cubs. Grandpa Murphy also worked his way through night school to become an engineer, taught Sunday School

for the youth group, and could build just about anything around the house.

My favorite story about Grandpa is when he was near the end of his life and he demonstrated what faith in Christ looks like. Grandpa had complications from a surgery when he was older that left him quite weak. Most of the last decade of his life, he was unable to do much. As a child I remember visiting him and noticing that he spent a lot of time resting in a big green chair in the living room.

One day when he was in that green chair, a man came to the door.

This man was a neighbor who had been sent to see my grandpa because he was facing his own health challenges. The man knocked on the door and because my grandma was out on an errand, grandpa had to crawl out of his green chair and crawl over to open the door and let his neighbor into the house. The neighbor took one look at my grandpa on the floor somehow opening the door and said to him. Franklin, how do you do it? My grandpa told this man. I make

it through life because of Jesus. That neighbor was so inspired by my grandpa's faith, that he recommitted his own life to Christ and found faith to face his own struggles.

Friends, on this Father's Day, let us remember that the signs of Jesus in the Gospels, like the miracle of turning water into wine are there for a purpose. The purpose is that we might believe in Jesus and follow him. Jesus gave my grandpa courage in his moments of joy and in his seasons of great struggle. Jesus can do the same for you and me.

A few weeks ago on Mother's Day, I reminded us of the struggles of women in society today. I reminded us to see and appreciate women and the blessing they are as leaders. Today, I want to remind us that men are also struggling in some ways in society today. One pressure men often feel is to be strong all the time. Men struggle to be honest about their weaknesses. They often try to pretend they have it all together. Men are asked to remain strong. They are

supposed to be good looking, rich, successful, tough, romantic, and funny. We men are supposed to be like Jesus, but also a little like Rambo. It gets confusing. There is a masculinity in society that is actually quite detrimental to men. It is a false masculinity that pretends men should never cry or show weakness of any kind. Real men, I think are invited to be like my grandpa Murphy. The life of my grandpa Murphy has always reminded me that there is strength in weakness. A humble man who loves Christ and cares for others does not always have to show physical strength. Jesus demonstrated his manliness sometimes in his weakest moments when he put his trust in his Father in heaven.

On this Father's Day, let us remember to put our trust in our Heavenly Father as well, whether life is full of joy, such as at a wedding party with good wine or whether we are doing our best to crawl to the door to show hospitality to our neighbor.

Please pray with me....

Thank you Jesus for your miracle of turning water into wine. Thanks for listening to your Mother Mary. Thanks for also showing us what it means to love you in times of weakness when we are asked to put our trust in you. We love you Jesus. Keep showing us your presence and faithfulness through John's Gospel this summer. AMEN.