

## Signs of Messiahship

1. Much information would have become current during the public ministry of Jesus who demonstrated on several occasions His qualifications to be the Messiah by means of His miracles.
2. Before doing so, it is important to understand some principles regarding our Lord's system of performing miracles:
  - (1) Jesus performed miracles from both His own divine attributes and from the power of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
  - (2) There were three categories of miracles performed by Jesus during the Incarnation.
  - (3) First, were creation-related miracles. These were performed by the Lord's divine attribute of omnipotence.
  - (4) As Creator of all things, Jesus' creation-related miracles were not subject to the doctrine of *kénosis*.<sup>1</sup> Jesus created the universe. During the Incarnation, He used His divine power to hold the universe together, calming the storm, turning water into wine, or resuscitating Lazarus.
  - (5) Under Messiah-related miracles, Jesus gave accreditation or credibility to His true humanity and as the true king of Israel. In His deity He is the God of Israel. These include the casting out of demons, healing the blind and lame.
  - (6) Agent-related miracles were performed through the agency of the Holy Spirit and were designed to give credibility to His messages.
  - (7) All three of these categories were legitimate because they were a part of the plan of God for the dispensation of the Incarnation.

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<sup>1</sup>“*kénosis*”: During the Incarnation, our Lord Jesus Christ voluntarily restricted the independent use of His divine attributes in compliance with the Father's plan for the First Advent. This means that Jesus Christ did not use the attributes of His divine nature to benefit Himself, to provide for Himself, to glorify Himself, to act independently of the future protocol plan of God for the Church Age by the compromise of the prototype spiritual life.

- (8) We will note a few representative miracles to illustrate the Lord's mercy, grace, and power available only through divine power.

### The Miracle of Changing Water into Wine (John 2:1-11)

1. The wedding at Cana was hosted by Mary, the mother of Jesus' humanity. Invited to the ceremony were Jesus and His six disciples, John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathaniel, and James.
2. At wedding feasts, wine was a required beverage. When Jesus and His retinue arrived, the supply of wine had become exhausted.
3. Mary informed the Lord of the circumstance to which He replied in:  
**John 2:4 -** "Woman, what does this have to do with us? My hour has not yet come."
4. The word "Woman" is the proper noun, **γυνή (guné)** and used here by Jesus toward His mother as a rebuke. When a member of the Trinity rebukes us it is designed to alert us to resolve a situation by applying the Faith-Rest Technique.
5. When a wedding party runs out of wine, it is considered a social blunder. The couple is now facing the embarrassing situation of having to bring the festivity to an end. Mary's comment is a way of saying, "It's time to go."
6. "My hour" is a phrase that refers to the cross. Absence of wine means it is time for the guests to depart. Mary approaches Jesus in hopes that He can provide a solution.
7. All His miracles are designed to focus witnesses' attention on Jesus as Messiah. It is probable that most of the guests, if not all, did not know Jesus except that He was Mary's oldest Son.
8. Her Son's rebuke caused her to shift gears mentally and apply the Faith-Rest Technique.

9. Knowing that Jesus was capable of doing something to alleviate the problem she then turns to the attendants:  
**John 2:5** - His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."
10. She had no idea what Jesus might do, if anything, but she wanted the staff to be ready to oblige Him immediately should He suggest anything.
11. What the Lord intended to do required the use of six empty water pots:  
**John 2:6** - Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.
12. Jesus ordered them to fill each with water which they did up to the brim, about 180 gallons. He then told them to draw some out and take to the headwaiter.  
**John 2:9** - When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom ...
13. The wine instantly became the sommelier's choice. Wine ratings used today could not possibly judge the wine Jesus created so we will go with the review given by the wedding party's sommelier:  
**John 2:10** - ... and said to him [ **the bridegroom** ], "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine, but you have kept the good [ **καλός (kalós): choice; excellent** ] wine until now."
14. This chemical transformation of converting water into wine was the Lord's first of many miracles He would perform during His public ministry.
15. He used the omnipotence and omniscience required in the creation of the universe to change water into wine at Cana.
16. Spiritual concepts were evident in the Lord's miracle and it had impact on the six disciples.

17. Empty water pots were filled with water and then changed into wine; empty bodies were informed of the majesty of the Messiah's power to provide eternal life by simple faith in Him.
18. His own disciples had already believed on Him but the miracle convinced them of the undiminished deity that He also possessed:  
**John 2:11** - This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory [ **Shekinah** ], and His disciples believed in Him.
19. Water pots, water, and wine. Attending the wedding celebration with Jesus were six apostles. Consumption of the supply of wine brought six water pots into play and they provided a visual aid to illustrate the apostle's spiritual status quo and spiritual advance.
20. When Jesus called each of these men they, like the water posts, were empty. Into them Jesus poured water which in Scripture is symbolic of (1) salvation, (2) doctrine, and (3) the Holy Spirit.
21. Just as the six water pots were nonfunctional, so were these six apostles before Christ met them. Just as the water pots were made of stone likewise were the hearts of these men.
22. First, the six were saved by the testimony of Jesus as Messiah. Second they are starting to learn doctrine. Then they receive the power of the Holy Spirit.
23. At the ceremony in Cana, the men watch as the Lord orders water to be poured into the water pots. Water signifies life which at salvation becomes eternal life. This is a teaching aid that communicates the doctrines of salvation, eternal life, spiritual growth, and the power of the Holy Spirit.
24. The result of these three doctrine is the foundation of the spiritual life. The wine produces what the wine does for the one that consumes it: cheerfulness, inner stimulation, inner happiness, inner peace, and inner power.

25. By following Jesus, all six men will acquire these attributes in their souls, become mature believers, and carry on the Lord's work post resurrection.
26. Therefore, this miracle was primarily designed to teach these six men the process required for spiritual growth.