

INTRO

- New Year Resolutions: yay or nay?

This series will focus on the 7 miracles John records as signs pointing people to faith in Jesus.

READ

John 2:1-11

REFLECT & RESPOND

Perhaps one of the more well-known of Jesus miracles, it is intriguing that turning water into wine at a wedding in the small town of Cana is where Jesus chose to perform his first miracle.

Qu: what stands out to you in the text?

But in v11, John tells us the point of this sign: so that Jesus can be more fully known and trusted.

This is the beginning of the signs Jesus would perform and sets the tone to help us understand how Jesus works miraculously in different situations. So, what can we learn about miracles?

1. The problem was brought to Jesus

Everyone loves miracles, but not everyone loves the problems where miracles are needed. When we face problems big or small, we can bring them to Jesus and ask him to intervene.

2. The problem required obedience

Mary told the servants “*do what he tells you.*” Wise words. Sometimes obedience to what Jesus has said is required *before* we understand what Jesus will do.

3. The problem invited participation

Jesus chose to include the people that were there (servants) and what was there (6 pots).

What a picture of heaven and earth working together.

4. The problem led to belief

The result? Jesus is more fully known and the disciples believed. But weren't they already believers as his disciples? It is clear there are levels of belief in following Jesus and we should be growing in trust as we follow him.

Qu: how and where might God be inviting you to trust him more in 2023?

In summary, God uses problems to reveal himself to us and grow our faith. Sometimes he works miraculously; most times he works in more subtle ways. Nonetheless, our greatest problems can become our greatest opportunities for deepening growth, trust and life in God.

It may be that the very problem or challenging situation you find yourself in right now, is the very thing God wants to use to reveal himself more fully to you and deepen your faith in Jesus.

Qu: is there a problem you are facing right now that we can ask Jesus to intervene in?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Use the final question to pray for one another and the year ahead.
- As part of our P+F week, spend time praying for our church community, and our ministry within the city and on the campuses.