

Miracles: Water Into Wine; Wine into Water

A wedding! A party! Wine! Water! Miracles! At a wedding and a party? Yes! Miracles can happen any place, any time, when God is present. About 30 AD, Jesus, His disciples and family, were at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. As the feasting progressed, they ran out of wine. Jesus' mother said to Him: 'They no wine.' Then she said to the servants: "Do whatever He tells you. Standing nearby were six stone water jars....Jesus told the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' When the jars had been filled, He said, 'Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies...the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine...' [John 2:1-11] Wow! An undeniable miracle! Jesus turned ordinary water into the finest aged wine. Such a thing was unheard of previously—Jesus got their attention.

Not only can Jesus turn water into wine, He can turn wine into water. It happened at a family Christmas party in Small Town, Alberta. I'll briefly relate Bob's story; a friend, who experienced just the reverse of what happened at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, while still a struggling new Christian.

In November of 1977 Bob was sentenced to a minimum security prison in Calgary, for embezzlement. His prison job was looking after stores. One day a prison mate came by with a three day Christmas pass in hand. Bob wanted one, applied for one, and got one to go home over Christmas. But there were two conditions: he had to be with his wife at all times; he was not to drink any alcoholic beverage. Everything went fine until December 26, the day he was to return to prison by 8 pm. While having an early supper with family and a few friends, Bob thought he would take just 'one little' drink, but before he knew it, he'd downed a whole bottle of booze. Then it hit him: 'What have I done?' He suddenly realized that when they found out he'd been drinking he would lose his good behaviour time and make it tough for other prisoners to get passes. Suddenly Bob jumped to his feet. He said: 'The Word of the Lord came to me.' Jesus said: 'Did I not turn water in wine?' 'Can I not turn booze into water?' At that moment, Bob looked up to heaven, and in front of everyone cried out: 'Lord, sober me.' He went back to jail two hours later, passed the breathalyser test—completely sober. There was no trace of alcohol in his system. The wine had been turned into water. A miracle of God! He experienced an immediate deliverance; he's never touched alcohol since that day; a radical life change occurred, thanks to the mercy and grace of God. Bob serves as a Chaplain to prisoners, making the miracle working power of Christ known to them. [written with permission]

What is a miracle? It's an unequalled or unprecedented event. A miracle is when God does what is naturally and humanly impossible to do. He can make the impossible happen for His glory and our good. "Miracles are when God reveals Himself." - unknown Who else could turn water into wine; wine into water? So how do miracles happen? God! Nicodemus said to Jesus: "No man can do these miracles that You do, except God be with Him" [John 3:2 kjv] All true miracles point to God. A miracle is an extraordinary and astonishing happening that can only be attributed to God manifesting His ultimate power and intervention. "For nothing is impossible with God." [Luke 1:37 nlt] Jeremiah wrote: "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." [Jeremiah 32:17 nkj]

Why do miracles happen? Two reasons: "This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee... Jesus revealed His glory. And His disciples believed in Him." [John 2:11 nlt] 1. Miracles reveal Jesus' glory, or unveil His true identity—His Deity: Son of God; God in human form; the Messiah. 2. Miracles happen so people like the disciples, the bridal party and guests, Bob, you and me, will know and believe Jesus is God, and put our faith and trust in Him. I believe miracles happen today—I hope you do to. You may need one.

George Shaw