

“Do You Need a Sign?”

John 2:1-11

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I'm your friend and Bible teacher. The program you're listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

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The Bible is the only source of lasting hope. It is God's Holy Word. You know as well as I do that we cannot rely on the words of men because men change. But God is unchanging, His Word is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Psalmist, David, said in Psalm 119:89, "*Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in Heaven.*" My friend, you can depend on God's Word.

In a few moments, Dr. Yoder will speak to us from John 2:1 to 11. It is the report of the first miracle that Jesus performed when He began His earthly ministry. This miracle is called "a sign." It was something that gave proof to the reality of Jesus' claim to be the Messiah.

But right now, let's pray together. Heavenly Father, we come to you in the precious name of Jesus, your Son, and our Savior. We praise you that you have revealed yourself to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. For those of us who are your children, we understand that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

In a few moments Dr. Yoder will share his teaching from the Word, and I pray that you will open my heart and the heart of my friend who is listening to receive that Word. I pray that each one listening will gain a better understanding of who Jesus really is. And I pray this in His name, Amen.

Now, here's Dr. Yoder.

The Bible records times of revelation. Each period of revelation was accompanied by signs or miracles. Let me just suggest two for you.

In the days when Moses brought the Children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, God performed miracles by the hand of Moses. We can read about them in the books of Exodus and

Numbers. God sent flies, hail, darkness, etc. to convince Pharaoh to let Israel go. When the people of Israel had departed from the Lord and were worshipping idols, God raised up the prophet Elijah. Elijah performed miracles by the hand of God. You can read about them in the book of I Kings: example, no rain for three- and one-half years.

When Jesus came and lived among men God performed miracles by His hand. I'm telling you the Bible records times of revelation and signs and miracles accompanied each of them. When Jesus lived, He performed such signs.

The Gospels, all four of them, record 38 such miracles that Jesus performed. Of course, the Bible says in those accounts that many other signs also did Jesus. We have one of them, the first one, right here before us in John 2:1-11. **DO YOU NEED A SIGN?** I want to show you what this sign of Jesus may mean to you.

- 1 *And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:*
- 2 *And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.*
- 3 *And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.*
- 4 *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.*
- 5 *His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*
- 6 *And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.*
- 7 *Jesus saith unto them, Fill the water-pots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.*
- 8 *And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.*
- 9 *When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,*
- 10 *And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.*
- 11 *This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.*

In connection with this sign we note several COMMANDS to the servants that are important to us as well.

The First Command is Do It!

Jesus, the disciples, and the mother of Jesus were invited to a wedding. A wedding is a time of joy. In all cultures, weddings are times of rejoicing. There was great joy here but they ran out of wine, so Jesus' mother came to Him and said, "They have no wine."

That is not the important statement in this passage. The important statement is not so much what she said to Jesus but what she said to the servants because she said to them, "Whatever he says unto you, do it." She left no choice to them.

Here is a great lesson. A great lesson! My friend, do you need a sign? There is no hope unless you do what He says, exactly what He says. There is no choice left to you.

The Next Command is Carry It!

Then Jesus spoke to the servants, "Fill the waterpots with water." They filled them, six of them. Then He said, "Draw out now, and carry it unto the governor of the feast."

You could say that these commands were simple, yet they must be followed carefully. There can be no departure from the clear instructions of the Lord. I want that to come home to you because many people today want a sign, but they do not want to do what the Lord has asked them to do.

How do we find out what God is asking of us? We find out when we read the Bible. I am not suggesting to you that you should find yourself six water pots of stone, fill them with water, draw out and expect that the water should be turned to wine. That is not the point. The point is to learn this great abiding principle: if you want to understand the Lord you must be ready to follow His instructions carefully.

The Final Command is Taste It!

They took this water turned to wine to the governor of the feast. He tasted it and said, "This is better than we had before."

I am in no position to make a judgment on the wine because I do not drink wine. I do not know exactly on what basis the governor made his judgment, but he said, “You have kept the best until last.”

There is something beautiful about that, isn't there? Whatever Jesus does is best. And here is a case to be considered. The governor who knew nothing about the activities or how the wine was made said it was the best. Yes, there is a principle here--whatever Jesus does is best.

This sign showed forth the glory of Jesus and His disciples believed on Him. Do you need a sign? Signs cannot be ignored. Signs must be acknowledged, not ignored.

The commandments Jesus gave to the servants ring true today. The commandment that the mother of Jesus gave to the servants rings true today. You cannot know Him until you are willing to obey Him.

Let me remind you of what Mary said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” Now if you will take this attitude of complete yieldedness to what Jesus says then you will see the glory of God, too, and the signs will add confirmation to what you know to be correct.

Thank you, Dr. Yoder for that helpful teaching. My friend, are you looking for a sign from God? When Jesus was here on this earth His miracles were signs or proofs of His deity. His actions convinced people that He was who He claimed to be, the Son of God. But today, we have the full revelation of Jesus through His Word, the Holy Scripture.

Now I am not so arrogant as to say that the age of signs and wonders, or miracles, has totally passed away. But signs and wonders are not the primary way by which Jesus calls people into a relationship with Him. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 10:17 about the primary way God uses today. He writes, “*So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*” God's Word is the primary way that people learn about Him and come to Him in faith.

This is the reason that we always come to you on this program with teaching from a particular portion of God's Word. The apostle Peter wrote, “*as newborn babes, [Christ-followers should] desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*” In other words, just like a newborn baby seeks its mother's breast, so we should turn to the Word of God for our source of spiritual nourishment and growth. And you know, Satan will all he can to keep us from feeding on the Word of God. He knows that without it we will become sickly, and weak, and powerless. So, I urge you, friend, feast on God and His Word!

Do you have questions about the Bible and living as a Christ-follower, if so, write to us. We will take your questions to the Word of God and find answers that will bring meaning and purpose to your life – IF – you accept them. So, if you have questions write to us today.

The quickest way for you to contact us is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. That email address again is, m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember too, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “Do You Need a Sign?” I’d be happy to send one to you.

And friend, if you do not have a Bible, and you cannot afford to buy one, please let us know. We will gladly send a copy to you without charge. This offer is only for those who DO NOT have a copy of God’s Word and cannot afford to purchase one. If you meet those qualifications, you may request a copy of the Scriptures from us without cost.

Once again, the quickest way for you to contact us is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, “Do You Need a Sign?” It’s available in print or on an audio CD. And if you don’t have a Bible and can’t afford to buy one, you may ask us to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue study in the Gospel of John. In his teaching, Dr. Yoder will show us how to “Do What is Right.” And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.