

Jesus' first miracle



John 2: 1-11

The Lord Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana (Galilee). Mary, the mother of Jesus, was also present. During the festivities the wine ran out. Mary advised the host's servants to do what her son, Jesus, told them. Jesus helped them in their predicament and changed water into wine. The Son of God performed his first miracle.

4

The children learn that Jesus can do that which is impossible for man.
As the Son of God he has this power. This knowledge strengthens the children's faith.

In Cana, Nathanael's home village, a wedding feast is being prepared. Since early morning there has been bustling activity in the house in which the wedding is to take place. Maidservants are kneeding dough for bread and pastries in the kitchen. Goats and sheep have been slaughtered and are being prepared for the wedding feast. Everyone is busy and cheerful, laughter is heard throughout the house. Numerous relatives and friends have been invited to the feast which is expected to last for several days. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is one of the guests and Jesus and his disciples have been invited to the wedding as well. Nathanael is well-known in the village and is acquainted with the bridal couple. The Lord Jesus and his disciples are sitting amongst the cheerful wedding guests and are enjoying the food and drink.

Mary is very happy to see her son again. Since he started his public teaching, he no longer lives with his parents. He is now living in Capernaum.

1

In the middle of all these lively festivities, the atmosphere becomes strained. The servants are whispering excitedly amongst each other, and the bridegroom's face is looking rather gloomy. The wine goblets of most of the guests are

empty; the wine has run out and the feast is still far from over.

Mary understands the bridegroom's distress. She feels very sorry for him. He so generously invited all these guests. If there is someone who can help here, she thinks, then it is my son Jesus. She walks up to Jesus and whispers to him: "They have no more wine." Jesus answers his mother: "What do you want from me? My time has not yet come." But Mary knows that he will help if he can and if the time is right. She therefore walks up to the servants, points out Jesus to them and says: "Do whatever he tells you!"

2/3

Outside in the courtyard, there are six stone water jars which are used for washing. According to Jewish rites, everyone must at least wash their hands before sitting down to eat. The Lord Jesus instructed the servants: "Fill these jars with water!" The servants obeyed and filled the jars to the brim. Then Jesus said to them: "Now draw some out and take it to the man in charge of the feast." This man also tasted the wine before it was served to the guests. The servants ask themselves what the headwaiter is going to do with all the water but, remembering Mary's words, they take the jars to him. Then a miracle happens. Although no one present notices anything, the water is changed into wine!

The headwaiter, who obviously does not know how the wine came to be in the water jars, tastes it. Greatly surprised, he calls the bridegroom and says to him: "Everyone else serves

Jesus Christ is the Son of God

the best wine first, and after the guests have had plenty to drink, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!”

But the servants who have drawn the water know what has happened. The news of this miracle spreads like wildfire amongst the wedding guests. Reverently the people look at the Lord Jesus. They ask themselves: “Who is he that he can per-

form such a miracle?”

The disciples rejoice however. They know the Son of God, and he even wants to be their Master! Now they no longer have to merely believe the words of John the Baptist, they have seen the Lord's power. Their faith has been strengthened. They want to follow the Son of God and stay with him for ever.

4



The Lord Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana. The wine ran out during the festivities. Mary, Jesus' mother, referred the despairing servants to the Lord Jesus who changed water into wine.

- 1 Together with the children we look at and describe the picture. What belongs to a wedding feast?**
- 2 We discuss Jesus' task with the children. He is the Son of God. He has already commenced his public teaching and proclaims the will of God to the people—an enormous task, and perhaps an explanation for his strange reaction.**
- 3 What will happen now?**
Mary gives those present important advice: “Do whatever he tells you!”
We, too, follow the advice of the ministers and our parents.
- 4 Have the children experienced a miracle too, or made an experience of faith?**