

THE WEDDING

John 2:1-11

Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding celebration in the city of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was also invited.

Weddings in Jesus day were week long festivals. Banquets were prepared for many guests, and the week was spent celebrating the new life of the married couple. Often the whole town was invited, and every one came. It was considered an insult refuse an invitation to a wedding. Because there were so many people to be served, the bridegroom had do very careful planning in order to make certain that he would have enough food and wine for the whole celebration.

As the feast was progressing, the servants realized that there was no wine left. This situation was more than just embarrassing for the bridegroom and his family, it broke the strong unwritten laws of hospitality. Guests were to be able to have all the food and wine that they desired at a wedding feast.

The mother of Jesus happened to notice what was going on, and she was concerned for her hosts, so she went to Jesus and said, "They have no wine."

Jesus answered her, "Woman, it is not the time to reveal who I am."

Mary did not say any more to Jesus, but she went to the servants and told them, "Whatever he says to you, do it!"

There were six water pots of stone which were used to hold water for ceremonial cleansing. According to the Jews ceremonial law, people became symbolically unclean by touching objects of everyday life. Before eating they poured water out of such pots over their hands to cleanse themselves of any bad influences that they might have encountered.

Jesus now told the servants to fill these stone water pots. Each one would hold between twenty and thirty gallons of water.

The servants obeyed Jesus and filled the pots completely to the brim.

Now Jesus said, "Take out of the pots and give it to the governor of the feast."

The servants as Jesus commanded and carried water from the pots to the governor.

The ruler of the feast tasted the water that had been made into wine, but he did not know where it had come from.

But the servants knew. They had filled the pots with water, and now it was wine.

The governor of the feast called the bridegroom and said, "People always serve their guests the good wine at the beginning of the feast. Then when every one has had enough, they bring out the poorer wine. But you have kept the best wine till now.

This was the first sign that Jesus did. It was done in Cana of Galilee. It showed forth Jesus' glory and his disciples believed on him.

By doing this first sign at the wedding, Jesus began to show his power to the world. The miracles of Jesus are called signs by John in order to bring our attention to the reason for the miracle, rather than the miracle itself. Each miracle that Jesus did was to bring glory to the work and person of Christ, and to encourage faith in those who followed him.

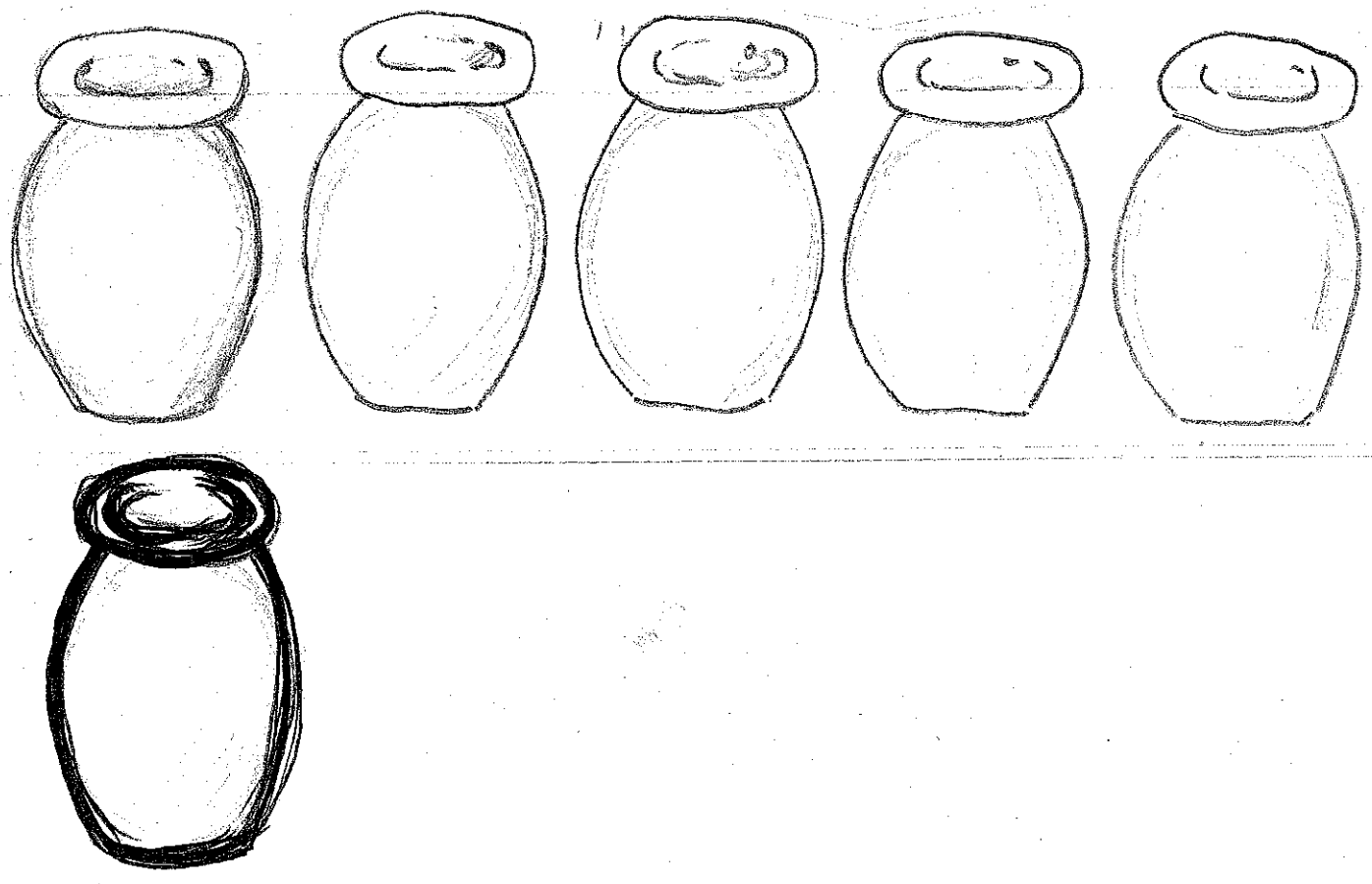
Because the servants willingly obeyed Jesus, they had the privilege of participating in this miracle. When Jesus asks us to do something, and we obey with a willing heart, we never know what blessing may follow.

PRINCIPLE: Jesus the Creator of all things, has the power over those things that he has created.

LEARN: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
Matthew 28:18

1. Water^{color} the picture.
2. ~~or~~ / and

Cut 6 water pots out of construction paper and paste at the bottom of picture -



and/or

2. Cut 6 water pots out of construction paper and paste @ the bottom of picture.

