

Lesson IV.

THE FIRST MIRACLE IN CANA

January 22, 1905

John 2 : 1-11. Commit to memory v. 11. Read John 10 : 22-42.

GOLDEN TEXT—Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.—John 2 : 5.

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 waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

Revised Version—¹ Jesus also was bidden; ² the wine failed; ³ And; ⁴ Now there were six waterpots of stone there after the Jews' manner of purifying; ⁵ a ruler; ⁶ Omith had; ⁷ now become; ⁸ had drawn; ⁹ callest; ¹⁰ setteth on first the good wine; ¹¹ drunk freely, then; ¹² his signs.

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.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—February, 27 A.D., not long after the calling of the first disciples; Cana of Galilee, a few miles north-east of Nazareth.

Connection—The Lesson contains the testimony to Jesus of His first miracle. It is, besides, a study of Jesus in the home.

I. THE MOTHER'S REQUEST.—1-3. The third



Jewish Water Pots

day; probably from the finding of Philip and Nathanael, ch. 1 : 43. **A marriage.** The marriage feast frequently lasted for seven days, Judg. 14 : 12. **In Cana of Galilee.** See Time and Place. **The mother of Jesus;** Mary. John's Gospel does not mention her name. The others do. **Jesus was called (invited), and his disciples.** Mary seems to have been a friend or relative of the family. Hence, very likely, the invitation of Jesus, and, with Him, the disciples. Joseph, Mary's husband, is not mentioned. Probably he was dead. **When the wine failed (Rev. Ver.).** This would be extremely humili-

ating to the family. Wine was the common drink of that country and time. (This is no argument for our using it.) **They have no wine.** Jesus had been a wise and loving Counsellor in His home. Could He not aid now? Mary could not help knowing that He had more than human power.

II. THE SON'S RESPONSE.—4, 5. Woman; perfectly respectful. The term was used in ancient times in addressing queens and other great persons. **What have I to do with thee?** How tenderly He loved His mother, John 19 : 26, 27 tells; but as the Son of God He was no longer subject to earthly parents as in Luke 2 : 51. **Mine hour is not yet come.** In small things, as in great, He would wait the Father's call. (See ch. 6 : 38, and compare ch. 8 : 20; 17 : 1.) **Whatsoever he saith... do.** Mary still had confidence in His power and willingness to help. It is our business to obey Jesus; His help will never fail.

6-8. Six waterpots (great jars) of stone; like those still used in Palestine. They keep the water pure and cool. **Purifying of the Jews;** the washing of hands and vessels, spoken of in Mark 7 : 2-4. **Two or three firkins (about nine gallons) apiece;** say, 120 gallons in all. **Jesus saith... Fill... with water.** Special attention is called to the water, in view of the wonderful change to be made. **Filled... to the brim;** no room to add anything. **Draw out;** from the jars. **Unto the governor of the feast;** a sort of chairman, who "regulated the course of the feast and the conduct of the guests."

III. THE WONDERFUL RESULT.—9, 10. The water that had become wine (Rev. Ver.). The servants could testify that it was water which had been put in, the ruler of the feast that it was wine which came out. Thus there is independent testimony. **Called the bridegroom;** giving public testimony to the genuineness of the wine, and therefore of the miracle. The custom mentioned in v. 10 was the common one; hence the surprise of the "governor."

11. This beginning of his signs (Rev. Ver.). "Signs" is John's usual name for the miracles of Jesus. It means that each miracle was intended as a proof or token of His divine power and grace, as