

Lesson III.

CHRIST'S FIRST MIRACLE

Jan. 15, 1899

John 2: 1-11.

Commit to memory v. 11.

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 (1) 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, Whatever he saith unto you, do it.

6. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after (3) 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.

8. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the (3) governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water (4) 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 (5) at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have (6) well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11. This beginning of (7) miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Revised Version.—(1) The wine failed; (3) The Jews' manner of purifying; (3) Governor: Marg. Steward; (4) Now become: Marg. That it had become; (5) Setteth on first the good wine; (6) Drunk freely; (7) His signs.

GOLDEN TEXT

"And his disciples believed on him."—John 2:11.

DAILY READINGS

M.—John 2: 1-11. Christ's first miracle.

T.—Mark 7: 1-9. Customs of purifying.

W.—Luke 7: 18-23. Miracles proofs of authority.

Th.—John 10: 31-42. Evidence of Divinity.

F.—Luke 24: 13-18. Good company.

S.—Rev. 3: 14-22. A visitor.

Sa.—John 16: 25-33. Do ye now believe?

LESSON PLAN

CHRIST'S FIRST MIRACLE.

I. THE MARRIAGE FEAST, 1, 2.

The Marriage; The Guests.

II. THE WATER INTO WINE, 3-9.

His mother's part; The servants' part; His own part.

III. THE GOVERNOR'S TESTIMONY, 9, 10.

IV. THE FAITH OF THE DISCIPLES, 11.

CONNECTING LINKS

The finding of Simon by his brother Andrew and his coming to Jesus were upon the day spoken of in v. 35. This was in Judea. The next day, (v. 43) Jesus departs to Galilee, taking with Him Simon, Andrew and John. Philip and Nathaniel are added by the way. On the third day after leaving Judea He attends the marriage feast at Cana of Galilee with His disciples, and turns the water into wine. This Cana is most likely the Kefr Kenna of to-day, five miles north east of Nazareth, and some eighty or ninety miles from Bethabara, where John had been baptizing. It was a petty village. The surroundings of the miracle were extremely common-place. The story itself breathes the very atmosphere of affection and kindness, and reveals the tender interest of our gracious Lord from heaven in the humble joys of humble folk.

EXPOSITION

I. The Marriage Feast. 1, 2.

V. 1. "The third day." After Jesus and His disciples had left Judea, v. 43.

"A marriage." A great occasion in the East, as where is it not? As sunset drew near, the bridegroom, clad in fine vestments, supported by his friend (John 3: 29) and accompanied by a host of others, went to the home of his betrothed. She, arrayed in her best, veiled and surrounded by the village maidens, met him at its threshold.

Then by torchlight and with happy clamour of music and shouting, the gay company returned to the bridegroom's home (Matt. 25: 7, 10), there to spend the hours in feast and song. To the more thoughtful Jews "marriage conveyed much higher thoughts than those of festivity and merriment. The pious fasted before it, confessing their sins. It was regarded almost as a Sacrament. Entrance into the married state was thought to carry the forgiveness of sins. It al-