**Cana and Covenant**

• Cana is a small town in Galilee, just about mid-way between Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee

• Describe Cana and the thrill of renewing marriage vows where Jesus attended a wedding!

• Protestants and Catholics don't understand each other's particular brand of piety!

• Often known as the first miracle in the ministry of Jesus, but the gospel of John does not call it a miracle.

* To John it is a sign! A sign of the covenant!
* Not just any old covenant! The NEW covenant!

• What are the clues to the nature of this new covenant? They're everywhere!

* The wedding imagery reminds us of the promises of God in *Isaiah 62*. God doesn't see us as mere partners, God REJOICES over us as a bridegroom rejoices over a bride!
* A bride is always the most beautiful woman in the world! That's how our God sees us!
* The water jars were to fulfill Jewish purification rites. They remind us of the burdens and restrictions of the old covenant and the law
* Jesus is LIVING water! Jesus came that we might have life!
* A life beyond rules and restrictions!

• Do you know this Lord? Have you felt the embrace of this Jesus?

* Waters that wash away sins and regrets!
* Waters that quench the thirst of our fears, our loneliness, our limitations, and our transgressions

• It is wonderful to know this Jesus! But there's more! There is so much more!

* The waters give way to wine!
* Wine, the New Testament symbol of abundance, of celebration, of extravagance!

• To paraphrase *John 10:10*, “I came that you might have life, and have it more abundantly!”

• The stage is set for a wedding feast!

* All the blessings of the covenant, pardon of sin, peace of conscience, God's favor, the promises of the gospel, the comforts of the spirit, and the hope of everlasting life!
* A feast fit for laughter, for reconciliation, for fellowship, for fullness, for love.
* A wedding feast, celebrating all that is new, and affirming joyous relationships.
* A wedding feast of extravagance and abundance!

• Cana offers us not only a NEW covenant, but a RENEWED covenant!

• Just imagine the implications of this renewed covenant for Lafayette Presbyterian church!

* We have the solid rock! Our history, our story, our identity begins right behind the church in a place we call, “The Rock.”
* We have the fount of living water! Just in front of the property is a beautiful, flowing fountain!
* We have the law and the old covenant obligations!
	+ Session, deacons, committees,
	+ Bylaws, policies, and schedules.

• But there's more! There's so much more!

* For our next fellowship dinner, water will be transformed into wine! Please choose merlot, chardonnay, or moscato!
	+ But seriously:
* There are new songs to be sung!
* There are new relationships to be embraced!
* There is laughter ready to ring!
* There are yearnings waiting to be fulfilled!
	+ Just think of the implications for YOUR life!
* It isn't just business as usual in our habits, behaviors and routines!
* The hand of Jesus on your shoulder is more than sacrifice and self-denial!
* We know that Jesus lifts up the poor, the oppressed, and the down-trodden, but this is also good news for those whose lives are already OK or pretty good!
* There's more! There's so much more!
	+ The new covenant! The RENEWED covenant is a personal invitation from Jesus Christ to you to COME TO THE PARTY!
* Jesus wants you here!
* The God of all creation is eager and enthusiastic for a relationship with YOU!
* Right here, right now! Covenant becomes new covenant. New covenant becomes renewed covenant! Water becomes wine!

[*New Revised Standard Version*](https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-NRSV-Bible/) *(NRSV)*

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