

Authority Acknowledged  
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John 2:1-17

Warm-up Question: **Anyone have anything go off track on your wedding day? Anyone ever attend a wedding where something funny or odd happened? Anything embarrassing ever happen when you were entertaining?**

Jesus chose to use a mishap at a wedding to display his first miracle on earth. It wasn't just a "party trick" or a favor for some embarrassed friends. This episode in Jesus' ministry teaches you and me about Jesus' AUTHORITY and POWER in our lives. Later in this chapter, Jesus showed his PASSION that nothing be allowed to disrupt or dishonor TRUE WORSHIP of God, even in the name of RELIGION.

Here's the big idea: I may say Jesus is the Lord of my life; the question is, have I submitted my life and my worship totally to His authority?

Let's begin in the village of Cana, where wedding bells are ringing!

John 2:1-5 (ESV)

2 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

- **Verse 3: Why would the wine running out be such a big deal?**
- Running out of wine was a problem for them; for us it's a picture of life without Christ:

Kent Hughes writes:

*"They have no more wine" is not only a succinct statement of the young couple's problem but, as John saw, a spiritual condensation of human experience without Christ...The Scriptures use wine as a symbol for joy, as in Psalm 104:15, "Wine gladdens the heart of man," and in Isaiah 55:1, "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."...We could very well translate Mary's words, "They have no joy." At this precious time of life that should be filled with everything good, joy had run out.* Hughes, R. K. (1999). John: that you may believe. Preaching the Word (pp. 59-60). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

- Ever had a day when it felt like all the JOY has run out? What do we do about it?
- Look at verse 3: **What did Mary DO in verse 3? What else did she do?**
- **What does that teach us about taking our problems to Jesus?**

- Verse 4: Jesus' response might sound disrespectful, but we're told that the title "woman" was a term of respect (based on John 4:21; 8:10; 20:15). The 1984 NIV renders it, "Dear woman." It's possible Jesus didn't say, "Mother" to signal their relationship had changed as His earthly ministry began.
- **Verse 4: What do you think Jesus meant by "My hour has not yet come?"**

Phillip Yancey writes:

*We can only guess what went through Jesus' mind during those next few seconds as he weighed Mary's request. If he acted, that would mean his time had come, and from that moment on life would change. If word of his powers leaked, he would soon hear pleas from needy people from Tyre to Jerusalem. Crowds would flock: epileptics, paralytics, deaf-mutes, the demon-possessed, not to mention any street beggar who wanted a free glass of wine. Investigators would be dispatched from the capital. A clock would start ticking that would not stop until Calvary.* — Yancey, P. (2008). *The Jesus I never knew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

- Jesus measured everything by "His time"...the time of His death.
- Was Mary put off by Jesus' reply? In typical Jewish mother fashion she pushed on.
- Verse 5: Jesus' mother preached one of the shortest SERMONS on record!
- **What was her key point? What gave Mary so much confidence to be so emphatic?**
- We can get hung up on trying to discern what God is telling us to do. **What is one FOOLPROOF way to do "whatever He says?"**
- Look at verse 11: **What does verse 11 say that would indicate Mary was operating on FAITH and not on SIGHT about Jesus' power and authority?**

Max Lucado encourages us:

*Next time you face a common calamity, follow Mary's example: Identify the problem. (You'll half-solve it.) Present it to Jesus. (He's happy to help.) Do what he says. (No matter how crazy.)* — Lucado, M. (2004). *Everyday blessings: inspirational thoughts from the published works of Max Lucado*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc.

When God has revealed to us WHO His son Jesus Christ is, and we've experienced Him for ourselves; we can say CONFIDENTLY to others, "Do whatever he tells you."

John 2:6–11 (ESV)

6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

- Verse 6: **Why do you think verse six is so specific regarding the size and number of the stone jars?**
- Listen to the words of verses 7 & 8: (Read again). **If you labeled verses 7 & 8 with ONE WORD, what would that word be? Think for a moment...one word?**
- Jesus didn't need the servants' help. **So what's the lesson for you and me?**
- Ray Stedman points out the "dignity" with which Jesus performed this miracle. No "hocus pocus" or theatrics. Jesus didn't even touch the water...He simply turned it to wine.
- Verses 9 and 10: Again, great detail. We get a "review" of the quality of the wine. **How does that speak to us?**

In other passages Jesus often delivered a sermon after he performed a miracle.

Warren Wiersbe writes:

*If our Lord had preached a sermon after He turned the water into wine, what might He have said? For one thing, He likely would have told the people that the world's joy always runs out and cannot be regained, but the joy He gives is ever new and ever satisfying. (In the Scriptures, wine is a symbol of joy. See Jud. 9:13 and Ps. 104:15.) The world offers the best at the first, and then, once you are "hooked," things start to get worse. But Jesus continues to offer that which is best until we one day enjoy the finest blessings in the eternal kingdom (Luke 22:18).*

- **Verse 11 tells us three important facts. What are they?**
- Note John didn't call this a miracle, but a sign. **What purpose does a "sign" serve?**
- Jesus didn't do miracles to impress people or to gain attention. **What do you think His miracles pointed to?**

Jesus doesn't perform miracles out of sympathy or charity. Miracles may be for the good of those involved, but most importantly they are for HIS GLORY. Our good...HIS Glory!

- His Glory calls for our worship. Jesus was SERIOUS about worship. He spent time with His Father every day, and was in the synagogue on the Sabbath.
- In the next few verses that zeal for TRUE WORSHIP of His Father shows up as we see a very different side of the Savior:

John 2:12–16 (ESV)

12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

- A note about these verses: Nowhere do we read that he hurt the men or the animals.
- Jesus' **RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION** was **CONTROLLED** anger. There's a lesson for us in this...sometimes anger is appropriate, as long as we don't sin. Jesus **NEVER** sinned.

Jesus was **PASSIONATE** that **NOTHING** should hinder **TRUE WORSHIP** of His Father. This forceful display of that passion caused his new disciples to recall something David wrote in Psalm 69 about the coming Messiah (look at verse 17):

John 2:17 (ESV)

17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

- Jesus was **SERIOUS** about **WORSHIP**. What about you and me?
- Our worship of God isn't disrupted with smelly animals and yelling "rip-off" merchants.
- It may not be the noise and the smell of a stock yard that keeps us from true worship of God, but there are other **DISTRACTIONS**. When was the last time we really quieted our hearts and focused our attention on **WHO GOD IS**?
- Whether it's in the worship service, or in our private moments of worship, are the noises in our heads and the shortness of our attention spans just as distracting as the sounds of sheep; oxen; and pigeons? Is sin and distraction hindering our worship?
- Do we need to ask the Holy Spirit to come and chase away the things that keep us from **TRULY** worshipping God?

So, What's The Takeaway?

- The old expression is "moving Heaven and earth" to do something. It's an exaggeration for mere mortals...we can't do it. Jesus **CAN**!
- Only Jesus has the **AUTHORITY** and **POWER** to "move Heaven and earth" for us.
- Whatever our need, we can learn from Mary to have **FAITH** Jesus will fix things if we'll simply take Him the problem and **TRUST** Him to do what's best.
- Like the servants: We must "do **WHATEVER HE TELLS**" us. Obedience to His word.
- Like His disciples: Our faith should **GROW DEEPER** every time He comes through!
- Finally, we all need to ask Jesus to examine our hearts and clear out the clutter that's hindering our **TRUE** worship of Him.

What will you and I do this week to show Him the obedience and worship He deserves?