



Lesson #10, John 2:1-10

Water into wine at a wedding...You have got to be kidding!!

John 2:1-2, "On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding."

- **On the third day:** John continued the story from the previous chapter that noted happenings on a particular day...THIS TELLS THE READER JOHN WAS A WITNESS TO THESE EVENTS (John 1:19-28).
 - ✓ John even let the reader of his gospel know the details as well as the timing of the events:
i.e. on *the next day* (John 1:29-34), the *next day* after that (John 1:35-42), the *following day* (John 1:43-51) and now **on the third day**.
 - ✓ "The event last mentioned was the call of Nathanael. We say 'two days later...the wedding.'
- **Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding:**
This is the first of many stories suggesting that Jesus was always welcome among those having a good time. Jesus didn't spoil the good time, and in the Jewish culture of that day a **wedding** was the best party of all.

Jewish Marriage...A Picture of Jesus and the Church (12 Steps)

Revelation 19:7-9 "Let us rejoice and be delighted and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has fashioned herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given to her to wear. Then the angel said to me, 'write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb....These are the true Words of God.'"

The fact that Jesus was invited to this wedding has several implications:

- ✓ The invitation of Jesus to this wedding says something about the kind of man Jesus was.
- ✓ The invitation of Jesus to this wedding says something about what happens when we invite Jesus into the events of our life.
At this point, we want Jesus to be a part of every part of our life. We pray that our marriages are blessed, the birth and lives of our children are blessed, and our immediate and extended families/friend's lives are blessed by Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

- **And the mother of Jesus was there:**

- ✓ There is no mention of Joseph.
- ✓ Most Biblical scholars believe that by this time Joseph was dead.
- ✓ *“It would seem that Joseph died quite soon, and that the reason why Jesus spent eighteen long years in Nazareth was that he had to take upon himself the support of his mother and his family. It was only when his younger brothers and sisters were able to look after themselves that he left home.” (Barclay)*

One of the beautiful and wonderful thoughts about Jesus’ time on earth was that he loved his family and would never complain or disrespect his parents. If he fulfilled the Law of the Prophets, he would know the Scriptures, i.e. “Honor your father and mother.”

John 2:3-5, “And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

- **When they ran out of wine:**
 - ✓ This was a major social mistake and could shame the couple for a long time.
 - ✓ A wedding was supposed to be the best party of all, and for a host to fail in providing adequate hospitality (partially in the form of food and drink) was a great dishonor (not only to family, but the community as a whole. Joy and dancing would be turned into disgrace and humiliation) .
- **“They have no wine”:**
 - ✓ We don’t know exactly why Mary brought this problem to her son at this particular time.
 - ✓ Perhaps she eagerly anticipated the day Jesus would miraculously demonstrate that He was the Messiah.
 - ✓ When people saw that Jesus was the Messiah it would also vindicate Mary, who lived under the shadow of a pregnancy and birth that many people questioned.
 - ✓ It wasn’t wrong for Mary to sense that the time had come for her Son to enter public ministry.
 - She knew He had been baptized by John and confirmed with a heavenly sign at His baptism.
 - Mary knew He endured temptation in the wilderness.
 - She knew Jesus had been publicly introduced as *the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29), and
 - Had begun to gather disciples to Himself.
- **“Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me?”** Jesus spoke to His mother with a term of respect, but He did *not* call her “mother.” Jesus wanted to emphasize that now, at the beginning of His public ministry, He now had a different relationship with Mary.

- ✓ **Woman:** A better translation would be “Lady.”
 - Again, no disrespect; Jesus possibly saw that His mother was pushing ahead without the Heavenly Father giving Jesus the authority to begin His “Messianic message through the miracles and signs from of the Father.”

Important: Jesus seemed to say to Mary, “I won’t do it. It’s not time” – but then He went on to do it. Possibly, Jesus wanted to take the time to consult His Heavenly Father.

Jesus must have prayed and then known what to do, because He later said in this Gospel:

- “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. (John 5:19)
- I can of Myself do nothing... I do not seek My own will, but the will of the Father who sent Me. (John 5:30)
- I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. (John 8:28)
- For I always do those things that please Him. (John 8:29)

“He will indeed take action, as she was so very sure He would when she told the servants to do whatever He told them, but He will act in His own way, for His own reasons, and at His own time.” (Tasker)

“With all loving respect, he yet very decidedly shuts out all interference from Mary; for his kingdom was to be according to the spirit, and not after the flesh.” (Spurgeon)

- **“My hour has not yet come”:**
 - ✓ This expression, “**mine hour**” is generally used in John of the time of the *Death* of Christ.
 - ✓ It is, however, *any fixed or appointed time*; — and therefore here, the ***appointed time of His self-manifestation by miracles***.
- **“Whatever He says to you, do it”:**
 - ✓ The recorded words of Mary are few. However, it is good to pay attention to her words that were recorded because they consistently glorify Jesus, not Mary herself.
 - ✓ **It is wise for everyone to obey Mary’s direction, whatever He says to you, do it.**

NOTE: To deliberately go through Mary to get to Jesus is to regard Jesus as hardhearted, and Mary as tenderhearted. This is totally alien from the Bible.

John 2:6-7, “Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.”

- **Six waterpots of stone:** Jesus began this miracle by using what was at hand. He could have supplied more wine any number of ways, but He started with what was there.
- **According to the manner of purification of the Jews:** they were used in ceremonial purification.
- **Containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece:** 20/30-gallon pots (details).
- **Fill the waterpots with water:**
 - ✓ The servants were in a unique place of blessing for this miracle. Jesus wanted the cooperation of men in this miracle. Because of their obedience to Jesus, they shared in the joy of the miracle.
 - ✓ The servants were especially blessed because they obeyed without question, and to the fullest (**they filled them up to the brim**).

NOTE: This is a pattern for our faith and obedience. “When you are bidden to believe in him, believe in him up to the brim. When you are told to love him, love him up to the brim. When you are commanded to serve him, serve him up to the brim.” (Spurgeon)

John 2:8-10, “And He said to them, ‘Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.’ And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, ‘Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!’”

- **Draw some out now and take it to the master of the feast:** In faith, they obeyed the word of Jesus.
- **The servants who had drawn the water knew:**
 - ✓ The faithful servants who did their work to the full **knew** the greatness of the miracle.
 - ✓ The **master of the feast** only knew it was good wine; he didn’t know it was a miracle.

NOTE: one miracle proves the power to work every miracle. If Christ can turn water into wine by his will, he can do anything and everything.

- **You have kept the good wine until now!**
 - ✓ When Jesus made wine, it was **good wine**.
 - ✓ When “THEY” created the world, they said “It was good...very good!”
 - ✓ **There is a principle behind these words; the principle that for the people of God, the best is always yet to come.**

When you begin to see him face to face, when you enter into the closest fellowship, with nothing to disturb or to distract you, then shall you say, ‘You kept the best for the last!’”

Praise God!