



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JOHN 2:1-12

LESSON: JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE—April 7, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

John the apostle writes Jesus as...

- The *Living Word* (1:1-5);
- The *Light of the World* (1:6-8);
- The *Light of Men* (1:9-13);
- The Word Made Flesh (1:14-18);
- The Messiah, The Lord (1:19-28);
- The *Lamb of God, The Son of God* (1:29-34);
- The *Messiah, The Christ* (1:35-42);
- The *One Prophesized* (1:43-45);
- The *Son of God, The King of Israel* (1:46-49);
- The *Son of Man, God's Mediator* (1:50-51).

LESSON

I. JOHN 2:1-5

2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there. This will be a pre-demonstration revealing the creative power of Jesus, and His very purpose for coming to earth. He had the power to create and produce from the very beginning of time. ¹Jesus with His six new disciples traveled from Bethany near Jericho, to Nathaniel's hometown of Cana in Galilee, which is about a two days' journey on foot. Cana is a small remote, obscure country village in the highlands of Galilee. So, on the third day of Jesus' journey He finds Himself, His disciples, and Mary, Jesus' mother invited to a joyous wedding celebration. This was the place of the beginning of His first miracle!

2:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. This is one of the largest social events in a community and Jesus and His disciples are extended an invitation to attend. This tells us two things about Jesus.

1. Jesus was a sociable person: He likes people and people liked Him. His ministry was focused on being with and helping people in every way He could.
2. Jesus honored marriage. He demonstrated His approval and honor by attending the marriage feast and by meeting the urgent need of the bridegroom.

2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. A Jewish wedding ceremony included three major events:

1. There was a marriage feast and ceremony which were held on the same evening.
2. There was the escort of the couple through the streets to their home; usually taking place at night with flaming torches to light the way.
3. There was the open house which lasted for a week. All week long the couple wore their wedding garments (gown and robe) and entertaining guests. The whole community was expected to participate and celebrate with the couple in their new found happiness.

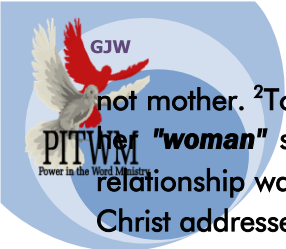
Now an issue has arisen! There are three concerns:

1. **The couple's concern:** The wine has run out and the celebration had just begun. This was to be a whole week of celebration.
2. **Mary's concern:** Mary wanted things to go well for the couple, so she brought this concern to Jesus. *"There is no wine!"*
3. **Jesus' concern:** He still had to teach and prepare His mother and disciples for His greater purpose.

2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. At this point, Jesus replies in a stern manner but not with disrespect. Mary focused on the social need (physical and material); while Jesus focused on the deeper need (soul and spirit; bearing the sins of the world for man). He calls her *"woman"*,

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/changing-water-into-wine/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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not mother.² To have addressed her as "mother" would have called attention to human relationships; but calling her "**woman**" showed that God (His Deity) was speaking to her. We can also see that the mother and son relationship was changing. He had to hear from His Father. We may add that it is significant that the two times Christ addressed His mother as "woman" are both recorded in the Gospel of John which sets forth His Deity.

To say "**My**" hour has not come was saying,³ *"I am not quite ready to launch into the miracles at this time"*. Nevertheless, Jesus listens to Mary and has feelings for the host. The stage is set!

1. The hour has not yet come when He could really meet man's needs marked by the Father.
2. The hour has not yet come when He must die for man's regeneration marked by the Father.

2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. No matter what Jesus said to her, her speech said it all. Her confidence was in her Son, and she didn't back down. She was willing to let Him do whatever He pleased. Of course, Jesus could attempt to get a merchant to reopen his shop and meet the need, or He could try to secure wine from some neighbors. However, the servants were to do whatever Jesus said to meet the unexpected need.

II. JOHN 2:6-10

2:6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins aplece. Six is the number of man, for it was on the sixth day man was made and there were six waterpots standing there, not seven, the perfect number, but six. The six waterpots were used for the purifying and cleansing of the Jews, that is, the *ceremonial and religious cleansing* of the hands and utensils which represent Judaism ritual. There were smaller waterpots used by women to transport water from wells. Each of these six stone waterpots could contain about eighteen to twenty-seven gallons each. The word "*firkir*" relates to brewing measure; a unit of liquid measure is equivalent to eight or nine gallsows. Note: These waterpots were just as empty their rituals. But, Jesus uses their ritual containers and causes a miracle.

2:7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. First instruction: fill the waterpots. Just as they had heard Mary say, *'whatever he says do it.'* So, they did it by filling them to the brim; not with wine but with water. They didn't ask any questions about *'where is the wine?'* or how much should we fill the pots? ⁴Jesus didn't need the servants' help to perform this miracle. He could have miraculously filled the jars with wine without their first filling them with water. But He chose to include people in His work, just as He chooses to include us now. He uses us in small and large roles to accomplish His purposes, and demonstrate His power to the world.

2:8 And he saith unto them. Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. Second instruction: "draw out," which refers to dipping out the water. **Third instruction:** dip some out and take it unto the governor of the feast (*the head person in charge; the master of the waiters or servants; the master of the banquet*). That was all that was said and done. There was no delay of Jesus inspecting the water or passing His hand over the water. Faith always continues to present miracles in our lives. I believe Mary's faith started it off. The servant's obedience continued it as they were on one accord in doing what Jesus commanded. Now, the proof was now for the master of the banquet to taste.

2:9 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, — This miracle was really viewed by the servants that drew the water from the waterpots, and of course His disciples. The governor of the feast only was witness to the taste of this magnificent wine in which he assumed the bridegroom had supplied. By the time he tasted it, it was no longer water, but wine. Jesus did not wave His hand over it, or even

² http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/John/john_06.htm

³ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/john/05.html>

⁴ John-God's Word for the Biblically-inept series

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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touch the waterpots. The only ones to touch the pots were the servants. This was truly a miracle, but Jesus did not call attention to Himself.

2:10 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. The wine was of a more superior quality when it was tasted. The governor of the feast compliments the bridegroom. Contrary to normal custom, the good wine was served at the beginning of the feast and the cheaper wine after the guest has had their fill.⁵ After they had well drunk, their senses would have been dulled and they would have not known one wine from the other. However, this new wine was not of this world. This is like the best was kept until last.

This is what God did. He first sent His prophets and judges to bring people to the knowledge of God, but the best was saved until the last, when God sent His only begotten Son. I believe this whole incident was kept quiet because Jesus was not ready to be exposed as Messiah at that moment, for He had said His hour had not yet come. The servants knew, the disciples knew, Mary knew, and Jesus knew, but I find nowhere in this discourse where the crowd at the party or anyone in authority knew.

III. JOHN 2:11-12

2:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. — "*Beginning*" means first. The word used here for "*miracles*" (*Gr sēmeion*) means "*signs*." The results were really threefold:

1. The bridegroom's need and Mary's need for them was met.
2. The faith of the disciples was strengthened because of what they witnessed; giving evidence that Jesus was truly the Messiah.
3. Christ's glory was revealed; His power to create was demonstrated.

Interestingly Moses' first, miracle was a plague—turning water into blood (Exo.7:19), which speaks of judgment. Our Lord's first miracle spoke of grace. The manifestation of His glory showed that He could change things and do so miraculously.

2:12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days. Capernaum could be reached in a days' journey from Cana. This was the home of James and John. Jesus, His mother, his brethren, and His disciples continued there until the appropriate time.

SUMMARY:

Jesus and His disciples are invited to a wedding in Cana. The names of the bride and groom are not given but in all probability, Mary (Jesus' Mother) was a good friend. At the wedding a crisis situation occurs. Since Jewish weddings lasted a week it was necessary for the groom to have adequate provisions. All the wine was used up, so Mary turned to Jesus in hopes that He could solve the problem (**2:1-5**).

Jesus asks the servants to fill the six water pots which were used for Jewish purification rites (**2:6-7**), before and after meals (Matthew 15:1-2). When they were full, He told dip some out and take some to the master of the banquet (**2:8**). When he tasted it, he said it was the best wine they had yet (**2:9-10**) (**2:6-10**).

This was the beginning of Jesus' miracles in Cana of Galilee; the manifestation off His glory, and His disciples believed on Him. After the wedding at Cana, Jesus, His mother, His disciples and other members of His family went down to Capernaum for a few days (**2:11-12**). (**2:11-12**).

⁵ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/john/05.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

