

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

My Brothers and my sisters in Christ, today we are looking into one of the most famous accounts of Jesus, that is his first miracle, where he turns water into wine. This story has become so familiar in our culture that you'll find it referenced everywhere – in songs, movies, TV shows, even casual conversations. But the familiarity essentially has reduced it to a divine party trick. And this is a shame, because this miracle of Jesus has so much more meaning. So we need to go deeper. We need to go deeper because it reveals far more, because already in this first miracle, Jesus shows us who he is.

Before we dive into the miracle itself, we need to understand the context. Jesus had just begun His public ministry. He was baptized in the Jordan River like we heard last week. He immediately goes into the wilderness and is tempted by the devil. He then returns to Galilee and starts to gather his disciples, he calls Andrew, Simon Peter, James and John. The following day Philip and Nathanael.

And then, **"On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding."** Weddings in ancient Israel weren't a simple afternoon celebration. Like in most communal cultures, it's not just to celebrate the happy couple. It's a multi-day affair which two whole families, a whole community, come together. The new couple was expected to provide a feast for all of those who have gathered to be there to support them, not only now, but also into the future, who are also most likely going to offer their own gifts to them later.

But there's an issue. **"Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'"** Might not seem like anything super important but again, in this culture, it could be a disaster. Running out of wine, would have been more than just inconvenient, it would be downright embarrassing and shameful. And the fact that they are running out, knowing that running out is dishonorable, most likely means that the unnamed couple was most likely quite poor.

Mary, notices and goes to Jesus, her little boy who isn't so much her little boy anymore. There has been a change. Evidenced not only all the events that preceded the wedding, but also by his words: **"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."** The address 'woman' sounds frankly misogynistic to our ears, but it's completely the opposite. It's a term of respect and affection, but we don't have a way to do that in English.

But still, this is not the normal address for your mother. Jesus has stepped into his public ministry under his own authority so to speak. He has started the phase of his life that will end on the cross. "My hour" is the way that Jesus speaks about the final culmination of the work of the Son of God for the salvation of the world in his passion, death, and resurrection.

Mary understood some things about Jesus, she knew he was her son, but also that he was different. She heard the announcement of the Angel, the events early in his life, she treasured in her heart. She knew this was her son, but he was also the Son of God. The Messiah who was capable of doing anything. Without any further words being spoken, she goes off and tells the servants: **"Do whatever he tells you."**

What follows is extraordinary. Jesus commands the servants to fill up 6 stone jars to the brim with water, at least 100 gallons all total. When they draw some out for the master of the banquet, he's astonished. Not only has the water become wine, but it's the finest wine of the feast. **"Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink"** he tells the bridegroom, **"but you have saved the best till now."**

This is where we see the deeper significance of this miracle. John says: **"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him."** Here we have an explanation of what makes Jesus miracles meaningful. The signs are not important because they bring wonder, or are hard to explain, or even that they show divine power, but rather that they point us to something beyond themselves. They show us God at work.

This account that shows us God at work has incredibly meaning for us. In the day to day happenings, do we ever believe that God is just a little too busy to be concerned about our minor inconveniences? My dog is sick but I don't think that God is probably a little too busy to hear about it. I've really been struggling with getting to work on time, but I mean there's some big stuff going on in the world I shouldn't bother God with that. I know there are people with far bigger issues, but I'm having trouble with my math.

Or maybe you trend in the opposite direction, we can be tempted to think that Jesus is a little too small for someone like me. I mean a lot of people see the nice and shiny exterior that a curate for my public appearance, but I know who I am. I know how deplorably I have failed. I know the rotten things I have done, or said, or thought. Things so bad that I dare not speak and would much rather have die with me in the grave. My promises broken over and over. My actions so hurtful time and time again. Is Jesus big enough to save someone like that? Someone like me?

Look once again at this account. Jesus, is not too small to take care of the biggest of burdens. Nor is Jesus too big to be concerned with the small. Jesus here as Mary comes to her with this issue, Jesus is already, as he as always been, laser focused on what his goal is. His goal at the start in Galilee is Jerusalem. He knows where his journey ends even before it begins. His purpose is to get to that cross. He goal is to shoulder the sins of the world, to endure hell itself on earth. His objective is the very salvation of humanity, to grant eternal life to all who believe.

But with that on his mind, his mom comes to him saying: "They've run out of wine". And what does Jesus do? Does he shrug it off and say "I have bigger fish to fry". No, Jesus wasn't too busy to help his mother. Jesus wasn't unconcerned about an unnamed couple's social standing.

Here in this miracle, we see who Jesus is. He is the Christ. He is the Son of God who came to save people from their sins, that was always his goal and he accomplished that goal. He is true God, and because he is true God, his declaration of sins forgiven cannot be overturned. Not by the devil, not by the world, not even by you.

Jesus is the Christ. The son of Mary, who was not too busy, or too important to fix the little things. He isn't booked out with the grand difficulties of the universe to listen to the hard parts about your day. He doesn't have level of emergency meter to be able to act. Just because someone else is having a harder time, doesn't mean that Jesus won't be there to help you with your hard time.

How does Jesus revealed to us change things? Well we respond in the same way that Mary and his disciples did. They believed in him. Mary believed in Jesus, she asks him for help and then knows that Jesus is going to address it in whatever is best. She tells the servants to listen to him and lets God take care of the rest. The disciples see the miracle that Jesus performs and they believed in him. God's action pointed to the fact that he was the promised Messiah from of old and he is worthy of following.

Brothers and sisters, don't let the majesty and meaning of Jesus' first miracle be reduced to simply water to wine. Because in this miracle you see who your God is. Who is Jesus? Jesus is the one who was sent to save the world from their sins. Who is Jesus? He is the one who is able and willing to help me in whatever struggle I may have. He has been revealed to me in the words of the Scriptures. I believe in him. Amen.