



# The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

## Part 4

❖ **John 2:1-4--*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. 4 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, They have no wine. And Jesus said to her, Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come***



### **Why is Mary so concerned about the wine running out?**

1. She is likely a close friend or family member to the host and is anxious to help them avoid embarrassment or even litigation.
  - “A wedding celebration could last as long as a week, and the financial responsibility lay with the groom. To run out of supplies would be a dreadful embarrassment in a shame culture; there is some evidence it could also lay the groom open to a lawsuit from aggrieved relatives of the bride.”<sup>1</sup>
2. She is anxious or perhaps a little over eager to see Jesus fulfill what was promised her by the angel Gabriel. Think about it, every diaper she changed, every boogery nose she wiped, every meal she prepared for him, she did knowing that...

❖ **Luke 1:32-33--*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.***

Now, here she is with her son at a major, highly public, highly attended event and he already has some followers with him. To her, this seems like the moment she has waited for. The moment he shows everyone that he is the Lord of Glory by doing something very publicly amazing! She is perhaps thinking If he were to stand in front of everyone and transform the water into wine, and have the wine magically flowing from the pots into the glasses of the guests, then every one would know that he is who God, through his angel Gabriel, said he is.

However, as excited as she is. It is not yet time. God’s timing is not hers. this is confirmed in verse 4...

❖ **John 2:4--*Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come***



### **Is Jesus being rude to his Momma?!**

- No, but but our American ears probably think so. What comes to my mind is the scene from the Incredibles between Frozone and his wife. Frozone is frantically looking for his “super suit” when he says to his wife...

*“You tell me were my suit is woman, we’re talking about the greater good!”*

Frozone's wife responds with that epic line...

*“I am your WIFE! I am the greatest good you’re ever gonna get”*

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<sup>1</sup> D.A. Carson, *Pillar New Testament Commentary: John*



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- Fortunately, that is not the type of interaction occurring here between Jesus and his mother. “In Jesus’ time, “Woman” was a title of respect. It was like saying “Ma’am” or “Madam.”<sup>2</sup> This expression is very similar to what we southern families with good manors teach our children to say to their mothers...“Yes Ma’am or No Ma’am.”



### Jesus rebukes his mother

- By saying “*what does this have to do with me*” Jesus is letting his mother know that it is not his earthly mother whose will he does, it is his Father’s. He is letting her know that there is no spiritual benefit to being his physical mother. If Mary wants to go to heaven she has to repent and believe just like every other human on the planet. This was explicitly stated in the Gospel of Luke...
  - ❖ Luke 11:27-28--*As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed! 28 But he said, Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!*

### ❖ John 2:5--*His mother said to the servants, Do whatever he tells you.*

- Some read this verse and assume that Jesus ended up caving in. They see Jesus doing his mom a “special favor.” This is a mistake. We are not seeing Jesus reprove his mother and then cave in. We are seeing Jesus obediently fulfilling the will of his Father. How do we know this? Cause Jesus repeatedly tells us that he does only his Father’s will. Thus we are assured, if Jesus does it, it is the Father’s will...
  - ❖ John 4:34--*My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.*
  - ❖ John 5:30--*I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.*
  - ❖ John 6:38--*For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.*

### ❖ John 2:6-10--*Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 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. 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.*



### Where is the sermon on drunkenness?

- A good Baptist would have taken this opportunity to preach a sermon on drunkenness. The master of the feast informs us that everyone has already had plenty when he says, “*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.*” Yet, Jesus brings more wine. Jesus brings 120-150 gallons of the finest quality wine. This is enough wine to keep even a very large party drinking for a few more days. I am not for a minute saying

<sup>2</sup> R. C. Sproul. *St. Andrew’s Expository Commentary: John* (Kindle Location 555). Reformation Trust Publishing. Kindle Edition.

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that Jesus approves of drunkenness. I am however saying that Jesus wasn't really bothered with people celebrating this festive occasion with some good wine.

### ❖ **John 2:11--*This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.***

- John in his gospel chooses to use the word signs here instead of miracles. This is significant because a sign leads us somewhere. A sign leading me to the Grand Canyon is not itself the Grand Canyon. The sign is pointing me to something more significant. It leads me to what I really need to see. So what is this sign in the John 2 leading us to see. Is there something more significant to know about Jesus in this passage? Or is miraculously making booze really the point of this story? What is John leading us to see?

1. **That the the Lord Jesus is omnipotent**--the fact that Jesus was able to alter the chemical composition of liquid inside some jars by his sheer will was enough to astound the disciples and cause them to believe in him. Yet, John 14 reveals to us that that they did not have a full understanding of who Christ was...

❖ John 14:8-10--*Philip said to him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. 9 Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?*

Nevertheless, they knew they were following someone whose power came from God.

- This was likely all that the disciples saw in the moment and it was enough to stir belief in them. Yet, it was not all that was signified. The sign at the wedding at Cana was pointing to much much more...

2. **The marriage supper of the Lamb**--How does Jesus begin his earthy ministry? A wedding feast. How will eternity with Jesus begin? With the marriage supper of the Lamb. Coincidence? I think not! The wedding at Cana was an epic party. 150 gallons of the finest wine means that the celebration was most jubilant and went on for a loooooong time. It was a foreshadowing of a party that will be infinitely more epic and will last for all eternity. It was foreshadowing the marriage supper of the Lamb.

❖ Revelation 19:6-9--*Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. 9 And the angel said to me, Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.*

3. **That Jesus is the mediator of a new and greater Covenant. A covenant that purifies**--The wine running out and the presence of the Jewish purification jars is a sign of the end of the Old Covenant. "It seems that Jesus wants to say, "I will take the purification rituals of Israel and replace them with a decisively new way of purification—namely, with my blood."<sup>3</sup> We know that this new

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<sup>3</sup> John Piper, "Obedient Son, Ultimate Purifier, All- Providing Bridegroom," December 14, 2008



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covenant is better because the master of the feast declares that this new wine offered better than the stuff they served earlier in the party. This is further confirmed by passages like...

- ❖ Hebrews 8:6--*But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.*
- ❖ 1 John 1:7--*the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

**4. That Jesus didn't come just for a few Jewish people. Christ's salvation is immense--**the size of those jars is meant to make us say, "Wow! That's a lot of wine!" Those jars were not just huge, they were "*filled to the brim!*" Jesus filling many massive purification jars to the brim is meant to thrill us with the immensity of his salvation. It should bring to mind passages like...

- ❖ Revelation 7:9-10--*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*

**5. That Jesus' blood is infinitely precious and potent.**

- The wine which filled the purification jars is a picture of Jesus' blood...
  - ❖ John 6:55--*For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.*
  - ❖ Matthew 26:27-28--*And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*
- Thus when the master of the feast declares that the wine that Jesus has made is of the very highest quality, we know that this is a commentary on the potency and quality of Jesus' shed blood. Other passages of scripture further illuminate that Jesus' blood...
  - (1) Redeems us (Ephesians 1:7)
  - (2) Forgives us and makes us part of his own family (Ephesians 1:4-7)
  - (3) Enacts a greater covenant (Hebrews 9:14)
  - (4) Purifies us (1 John 1:7; Revelation 7:13)
  - (5) Enables us to serve him eternally without shame (Revelation 7:13-15)
  - (6) Grants us access to the tree of life (Revelation 22:14)
  - (7) Render Satan powerless to accuse those whose plea is Christ' blood (Revelation 12:11)
- This is what is being signified when the master of the feast tastes the wine and says, you've saved the best for last.



These things are important to see in this story because it is in these things that Jesus "*manifested his glory*" (John 2:11). Jesus making a bunch of booze for a wedding isn't really the manifestation his glory. His glory was manifested in demonstrating his infinite power, foreshadowing the marriage supper of the Lamb, revealing himself as the mediator of the new and greater covenant, displaying the immensity of his salvation, and showcasing the preciousness and potency of his blood. What John is doing here in this section of his Gospel is presenting the person of Jesus to us and saying "Behold Your Glorious God!"