

The Gospel of John

2:1-12

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John. Well, believe it or not, we made it through chapter one, and it only took us 7 weeks. So let's get started in this week's study.

✠ **John 2:1** *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.*

One thing I learned this week is that some scholars believe that Jesus' mother, Mary, had a part in setting up this wedding. It is also believed that this may have been the wedding of John himself or a close relative of Mary's.

So why would these things be important if they are true? First off it would explain why the servants listened to Mary when she said to them.

✠ **John 2:5** *His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."*

Mary may not have attended many weddings since she may have been considered an outcast because she got pregnant before she was married. Therefore, for her to tell servants what to do, she would have to have been a part of this wedding.

If this was the wedding of John, who wrote this book, then the reason Mary was involved was because Mary was a relative of John. Even if it wasn't, it's very possible that it was a wedding of one of Mary's close relatives with the wedding itself taking place in Cana, which was about four miles from Nazareth, Jesus and Mary's hometown.

✠ **John 2:2** *Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.*

At this time there were not twelve disciples yet, as we learned over the last few weeks that Jesus had only called five men. Andrew and his brother Simon Peter, Philip and Nathanael, and the fifth would be John who wrote this book. So here they are, Jesus and His five disciples, when suddenly a problem arises and Mary goes to her son Jesus and says.

✠ **John 2:3-4** *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."*

You could almost sense Mary worrying here as she goes to Jesus and says, "*They have no wine.*" It was considered to be against the law to run out of wine during a wedding, and people were fined for doing so. This would be a major concern, since the fact that if

you ran out of wine meant you ran out of money, so how could you pay the fine, other than going to prison to pay your debt.

You must also remember that Mary was not a rich woman, and the family may not have been well off either. So they were hoping that they could supply the needs of the people with what little they had.

We never seem to realize that Jesus was not brought up in a wealthy home, in fact, they were probably considered poor. But God always supplied their needs, just as He supplies all our needs.

Once again the God who created all things, choose to be poor. Why?

† **2 Cor 8:9** *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

† **Heb 4:14-16 (NLT)** *That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.*

We tend to think that God does not understand our situation, but once again we seem to forget that Jesus experienced all the same things we do, including being poor (financially). Jesus does understand your situation. Just read through the bible, and you will see that Jesus went through the same things that you may be going through, even right now, and you will also read how Jesus overcame!

So Mary comes to Jesus seeking help, and what was Jesus' response?

✠ *Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."*

Before you get too excited about what Jesus called Mary (Woman), you must understand what this really means.

The word "Woman" was a sign of respect. Also Jesus uses the same word for her when he was dying on the cross.

† **John 19:26** *When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"*

In both cases you can hear Jesus' words of love to His mother.

Mary was a very special woman, not one to be worshipped or prayed to as some religions say. But still she was a chosen one of God, and she was obedient to God, even if it meant

that she would be poor, shunned because others didn't understand why or how she got pregnant before she was married. Mary would have to stand there and watch her son die on the cross for the world, even though He was innocent.

Mary was a very special woman, and she could only do these things and all others that she did through the strength of God.

Read a little of what is called the Song of Mary, which she spoke out herself while she was pregnant with Jesus in her womb.

† **Luke 1:46-49** *And Mary said:
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name."*

Can you say "WOW"!

God can use you too, if you will only allow Him to, and not think of yourself as some great person, or having great abilities so God should use you.

Only when we see ourselves in "*the lowly state*" as Mary puts it, can we be used of God. Sometimes God needs to break us of our pride and haughtiness before He can use us. If He didn't we would be useless and do things our own way after a while.

God even deals with me through these studies and this web site. My idea is to have hundreds if not thousands come here every week to study God's word. But God has shown me that even if one person comes here and is saved, or one believer reads these studies and is strengthened, then I am used by God how He wants to use me.

We tend to seek numbers instead of results. If our church is low on attendance, then we freak out thinking God has left us. But God has just the right people at your church at just the right time, so that He can minister to them. And God may have you in mind to do that ministering to one or more of them.

God also says through Peter;

† **2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

But we know that God gives man a free will to choose His Son, or reject Him.

Unfortunately, many chose to reject Jesus. But even though many do, that should not stop us from sharing Jesus with others. Even if you only pray with one person the sinner's prayer, you are in God's will because you are doing His work!

Maybe your church is rather small in attendance, it could be that God is preparing the people there for a great harvest, but in God's time and only when He says to reap the harvest when it's ready.

So Jesus asks His mother.

✎ ***“What does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”***

These are not words of an uncaring son, but One who was obedient to His Father in heaven, not wanting to reveal Himself until it was time.

But I’m sure God told Jesus to go ahead and take care of it, and through this Jesus revealed the joy of the salvation He was bringing to the world.

We see this as we read on.

✎ ***John 2:5-6 His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.***

How many times have you read this and wondered, “What are these waterpots and what did they have to do with purification and a wedding?”

I will let my former pastor (Ricky Ryan) explain this from a teaching he did in John.

These Six Clay pots were the ceremonial pots or jars that were used to hold the water for the different washings that the Jews had to do. And at the wedding celebration, there were a bunch of washing that they had to do. So Jesus tells the servants to go and fill them up, which was no small task because altogether they held about 120 gallons of water and remember, no water faucets, they had to draw this from a well.

Two interesting things, first they were pots used to ceremonially clean themselves, and second they were empty.

This means that they used up all the water in these pots, which would be about 120 gallons in total, but still they were unclean in God’s eyes.

Jesus gives the perfect example of this.

✎ ***Matt 23:25-28 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”***

This is a double WOW.

This is our Lord and Savior Jesus speaking here. We tend to think of Jesus as a quite spoken, humble person who never got angry. But there is a righteous anger, which Jesus was showing us here.

God does not like pretenders as we read here by Jesus' words. Jesus even says:

† **Rev 3:15-16** *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

If you struggle with something, then tell someone and stop trying to hide it. People know even though you don't think they do.

Moses found this out.

† **Ex 2:12-14** *So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"*

I remember a few years back that I was teaching a home group and was hiding a sin, the sin of smoking cigarettes. In one study God told me that I needed to stop hiding this and confess my sin to this home group I was teaching. It was tough, but I did it and it was the best thing I did, because I was no longer being a hypocrite and hiding my sin. Everyone understood and they all prayed for me and loved me. They even came back to the next study, and hadn't rejected me because I was a sinner.

We tend to forget that everyone sins and we think we are the only ones and that they won't understand if we do confess our sins to them. But you should know that I did quite about 12 years ago.

Remember what we learned in James?

† **James 5:16** *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

We should be able to trust our brothers and sisters in the Lord enough to go to them in need, and to confess our sins so they can pray for us and encourage us.

We need to stop washing our outsides and being so concerned with our appearance and start working on our insides and having a clean heart.

Now you may have noticed I said that the pots were empty but as you read the verse it says, "**Containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.**"

The word "containing" here does not mean that's how much was in the pots, but rather how much they could hold.

Now Jesus gives instructions to the servants.

✧ **John 2:7-8** *Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.*

We have talked about faith in the past and how people may say that you just don't have enough faith to be healed or for whatever you are in need of from the Lord. But reading this, there was no faith involved at all by the servants. Jesus told them to fill the pots with water and to draw from the pots and take it to the master of the feast. For all they knew, they filled the pots with water and they were taking a drink of water to the master of the feast.

There will be times in your walk with the Lord that you sense the Holy Spirit telling you to do something. Maybe it seems rather normal, but the end results will be God ministering to someone.

Or maybe it's because, ***do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Heb 13:2***

So the servants take what they have drawn from the pots to the master of the feast, and his response is.

✧ **John 2:9-10** *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!"*

Notice again "*the servants who had drawn the water knew*". They drew water but after the master of the feast drank and said it was wine then they knew what Jesus did.

So what is the master of the feast talking about here when he says, ***"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!"***

In the beginning of the wedding feast, the good wine was always served first, because as the night wore on, the wine would be watered down as your taste buds grew accustomed to the taste of wine, therefore you would be saving money by not having expensive wine served throughout the whole celebration, and the wine would last longer.

Now we get to talk a little about drinking alcohol for a minute.

The statement I am about to make is a bold one, but you need to really search your heart to know if it's true or not.

People will use these verses to say, ***"See, Jesus made good wine, therefore Jesus was condoning drinking, so it's ok for me to drink."***

Jesus brought joy to this wedding, not drunkenness. Jesus would not make wine in the alcoholic sense to allow others to make fools of themselves (Which people do when they are drunk), throw up from too much alcohol (Which they also do), and to have a hangover in the morning.

What kind of God would that be? Jesus would be going against his own words if He did.

† **1 Cor 6:9-11** *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

People who take these verses or others to condone drinking alcohol are looking for an excuse to sin. They are trying to find a loophole in God's word to allow themselves to continue in, or to justify their sins. Think about it, when you know something isn't right but search the scriptures to find a way to do it; that's when you will twist God's word to allow yourself to sin.

We need to stop looking for a way to continue in a sin or a justification for our sin and start searching the scriptures for strength to overcome our sin(s)!

✠ **John 2:11-12** *This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.*

People will say that this is the first recorded miracle of Jesus. I would have to disagree. Notice it says, "***This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee,***"

So this was Jesus' first recorded miracle in Cana of Galilee, but not necessarily Jesus' first recorded miracle.

I am not referring to the stories of when Jesus was a child and how He took a bird that fell out of a tree and died and Jesus brought it back to life, these are not in the bible.

Let me show you Jesus' first recorded miracle.

Remember the opening verses in the book of John?

✠ **John 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

Now, taking this into account, I believe that this is Jesus' first recorded miracle.

† **Gen 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

The creation of the heavens and the earth. That is a truly miracle!

To end this week's study, we noticed that man tried to cleanse himself with his own rituals (The ceremonial pots), the results were frustration and a continual cleansing on their part.

But Jesus came along and took man's rituals and showed them that what He was bringing was joy (Water to wine) and no longer the mundane rituals that only cleanse the outside. This is what Jesus wants to give you, but you must remove the rituals you have been taught all these years (the so called joys of this world) and start trusting in God and what His word says.

† **John 10:10** *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Jesus was also condoning marriage. Some will say, me and my girlfriend or boyfriend prayed alone in our house before God and asked God to marry us. Therefore, they consider themselves married. But this is a lie and they are not following God's way. Remember the woman at the well.

† **John 4:17-18** *The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."*

What you are doing when you live with someone out of marriage is called fornication:

† **Eph 5:5** *For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*

It's also not marriage and not love!

† **1 Cor 13:4a (NLT)** *Love is patient and kind.*

If you are living together out of marriage, then where is the patience, which is one of the evidences of love? If you really love that person, are you willing to allow them to go to hell to fulfill your lust; or if they really loved you, why are they allowing you to go to hell because of their lust?

Jesus brought joy to this marriage; let Jesus bring joy to your marriage by waiting and marrying the way you should. For the law of the land says that you need a marriage certificate and need to be married by someone the state says is qualified to marry you in order to be married, and we are to follow the law of the land according to the bible.

Maybe you are married but the joy has seemed to have gone from your marriage. Bring Jesus to the center of your marriage and He will restore that joy in your marriage. Because when the marriage seems bad, it's because we are self-centered thinking of only ourselves, and what we are not getting out of the other person. But when Jesus is the

center of the marriage we no longer think of ourselves, but rather how we can serve our spouses and then the joy returns.

Next week, Jesus cleans house!

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy!