

Series: John

Title: The First Miracle

Text: John 2:1-5

Please take your Bibles, ~~WAAA~~, and turn to the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John chapter 2. There are notes in your bulletin. I invite you to use them as we study this passage of scripture.

(2A) Today, I want to come to the second major section in our study of John's Gospel. This section, which begins here at Chapter 2 and goes through the end of chapter 4, deals with THE RECORD OF JESUS' MANIFESTATIONS, OR HOW JESUS MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO PEOPLE. In these next three chapters Jesus proves to the world that He really is God. ~~That he really is God~~. That he is the promised Messiah. And he does this in a number of wonderful exciting ways. *The first method is this miracle we are going to read about*

John chapter 2 beginning with Vs. 1. Would you please stand for the reading of God's Word?

(Read John 2:1-11)

(Prayer)

(1B) Now, Jesus is going to prove that he is God. And the first method of proof is seen in the first miracle that Jesus performed. And it happened at a marriage celebration in Cana of Galilee. Remember that John wrote in chapter 20 that Jesus performed signs and miracles so that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. And in believing we might have life through His name. So, this is the first of many miracles or signs that Jesus will perform.

(1C) Let's begin by looking at the sitting of this miracle. There are two things that

I want to share with you about ^{The} ~~his~~ sitting from verses 1 and 2

(1D) First of all, the TIME AND PLACE.

According to Vs.1, it was the third day. And it took place in Cana of Galilee. Cana is not too far from Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus.

We are told that Mary was there. It seems from her instructions to the servants that she had some official responsibility. Some have said that she is related to the family.

But I am interested in the ^{phrase} ~~term~~ "the third day." The third day after what? Why does the Bible say the "third day"? What is the point?

Well, in the context, the last thing we have recorded in Chapter 1 is the conversation with Nathaniel. Nathaniel, who was a true O.T. believer in that he was looking for the coming of the Messiah. And when he found ^{Jesus} ~~him~~ his heart rejoiced. He found the King of Israel, the Son of God. I believe that Nathaniel was converted on that occasion

It is interesting to me that Nathaniel, according to the Bible in John chapter 21 verse 2, is a resident of Cana of Galilee. ~~So, if you would check carefully in John 21:2, you will learn that Nathaniel, one of the disciples of Jesus, came from Cana of Galilee.~~ And it is because of that that we have many interesting views of this marriage.

One of which is that the bridegroom is Nathaniel, himself. Now, I don't have any proof of that. But, I am sure it is true that the reason why Jesus and his disciples were there was not because of their fame, for they are just getting started and this was the first miracle. The reason was because they were invited to this marriage. And the invitation probable came through Nathaniel. For Nathaniel has just been converted. And the Bible says the "third day". Meaning the third day ^{after} ~~for~~ Nathaniel had his confrontation with Jesus.

So, no doubt, Nathaniel invited Jesus to the wedding. And of course it would have been thrilling if it had been his own wedding. Because if it was, think about that, he was converted three days before. Think of the joy that would have been in his heart on the day of his marriage. *I like these little facts, they excite me. That is why I am moved.*

(2D) Now, the second thing that I want you to notice about the sitting is the

occasion. The occasion is a marriage. According to the O.T. a marriage

celebration may last from 3 to 7 days. Usually they lasted around three days. It

was quite an occasion. And it was a big ~~economical problem~~ ^{ceremony — lots of people —} because the family

(3a)

lots of food
had to pay ~~all~~ the bills. They had to provide enough food and wine for all who attended. *So, the occasion was a marriage*

One other interesting thing to me is that by Jesus attendance at the ceremony, he is really putting his stamp of approval on what happens. In our day, there are those who are teaching that if a couple loves' each other, why do they have to have a civil ceremony?

and Well, I remained you that Jesus attended them. The Bible speaks of them continually. And the Bible knows of no little private ceremony doing your own thing. As a matter of fact, the Bible condemns any living together. The Bible says that we ought to obey the laws of the land; and public display before people around us, that God has made us one in the Lord.

Now, whether or not you should extend your wedding cironomy to three days. I have a little advise along that line for you. I would suggest not for several reasons. One of which, it would really tire the preacher out. And so if you would just keep the the normal proceedure of weddings, my health woudl be a lot better of.

But there was a feast.

You must remember, also, that the Jewish marriage was separated by one year. At the beginning of that year was a supper or a dinner or a feast, in the home of the bridgroom. So, the man would take this young lady to the home of his parants, and they would have a great big feast. This would also last for several days. And he would announce his engagement. That engagement was serious among the Jews. It took a bill of divorcement to break the engagement. So, it was mery, very important.

As a matter of fact, it theree was any adultyary during that time, the person could be stoned. They considered the engagement period very, very important.

Now, at the end of that year, the bridegroom would come to the brides house and you would have the formal conclusion of the engagement period. A great marriage feast would be held. And the ciramony would take place in the middle of that marriage feast.

It is, also, interesting by way of prophetic type that the Bible teaches that when Christ comes again, he is ~~going~~ going to first of all come for his church. Which the Bible calls the bride. And Jesus is the bridegroom.

He is not going to return to the earth. But we are going to meet Him in the air. And we are going to go to the bridegrooms house, you see.

Then at the conclusion of the Tribulation period, he is going to come ~~back~~ ^{back} to this earth, set ~~up~~ set up his kingdeom and beginning the start of that kingdeom will be the great marriage supper of the Lamb. As the bridegroom comes to the brides home in typical Jewish fashion and we cilibrate it in front of the entire world.

It is beautiful in terms of ~~typ~~ and prophecy

⁹⁰ This brings us to
(2c) ~~Let's begin our study of this miracle by looking at~~ the situation that is facing Mary in
Verses 3 and 4.

(1D) And the first thing that I notice is the reaction of Mary. Vs 3 says: "And when the wine gave out." Meaning: they ran out of wine. Now, this was the responsibility of the host. Mary was probable the hostess. And so she says to Jesus, "They have no wine."

Now, the question is: WHY DID MARY SAY THIS TO JESUS? For the moment she certainly is forgetting his deity by informing Him of that which he already knew. The Bible teaches on one occasion that Mary knew of his power and knew of his person; and she kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. But, on this occasion she forgets that he already knows that they are out of wine. And in typical motherly fashion she comes to him and says:

"Take care of this problem. My mother use to do that to me all the time. Bill, take care of this problem. *My wife does that - But, take care of this problem - you know, I thought about that. And it dawned on me that*

~~Now~~, we do that all the time with God. When we come to God in prayer, we sort of forget for a moment that God already knows everything. And in prayer we inform him about what we want Him to do. LIKE: Dear Lord, let me tell you about good old Tom. Not, Tom who lives on 14th street, but Tom who lives on 3rd Ave. And not the one who had the accident last week, but the one who just hurt his leg. And here is what I would like you to do>"

Now, God already knows all of that, you see. ~~So~~, we often inform God. Have you noticed how we do that? You see, we want to make sure that God is clear. That he understands what we are trying to tell him.

Well, Mary is coming to Jesus doing the same thing. She is forgetting for the moment that He knows all things.

~~Well, Mary is coming to Jesus doing the same thing. She is forgetting for the moment that he knows all things.~~

(20) Now, with that in mind, notice the reply of Jesus.. Vs 4.. "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."

Now, I want to share with you ⁴ things here that I hope will help you to understand ~~this~~ ^{Vs 4 and 5} verse. People often say that Jesus was rebuking his mother. How bad for the Son of God to act this way. But that is not the case. What is the meaning here? ^{4 things}

(1E) The first thing that I want you to notice is that ^{the} term "woman" is not a term of disrespect. ^{It is not a term of disrespect} Many have taught that. That is not so.. It is a very respectful term. It is a term of honor. So, when Jesus called her ^{women} ~~this~~ ^{He} was not being disrespectful. But, he was emphasizing a very important truth. Jesus was saying to his mother that he was acting as the Son of God. ^{of was} God speaking to her. And ^{he wasn't speaking} ~~not~~ ^{as} her son.

And Mary was probably amazed at this approach. He who often said "Mother" now says in a public way, "Woman, what have I to do with you?"

^{Also,} I believe what we have here is a Bible condemnation at all future attempts to whorship and exalt ^{Mary} her. I don't believe that there is a more important point in all of the Bible on Maryology,, then John 2 verse 4. It is at this point that Jesus clearly teaches that Mary was not to be worshipped on the part of believers.

In Luke 1:28 the Angle did say to Mary that "you are blessed among women." He did not say, as is often misquoted, "you are blessed above women." He did not say that.

God choose Mary. But even Mary at the point of the announcement recognized that the ^{Just} ~~thing~~ to be born of her, was born and conceived by the Holy Spirit. AND SHE REJOICED IN...GOD...HER...SAVIOUR...

Mary is not the saviour. Jesus is the saviour.

And so here we have an important point in the Bible dealing with the importance of Mary and the simple fact that she should not be worshipped.

"Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."

(2) The second thing that I want you to see ^{is the meaning of that phrase} ~~what~~ ^{literally translated in}

~~Vs 4. And I would like you to write it down, please.~~

in vs 4

The phrase "what do I have to do with you?" ^{it} literally says... "what to me...and to thee...." That is all it says.....WHAT TO ME....AND TO THEE.....

OK

what does that mean? It is used on a couple of occasions in the Bible. So, we do have some understanding. It deals with the relationship of two people as to what they are thinking.

The point of Jesus is that there is a contrast of thought. Jesus said, "Woman, what to me...and to thee." There is a contrast of thought between the two of them. They are not thinking on the same wave length. What ever it was that Mary wanted or suggested by ^{her} ~~they~~ telling Jesus that they had no wine, Jesus is saying, "That is not what I am thinking." They were not on the same track at all.

(3) The third thing that I want you to notice is that Jesus said in his ^{the meaning of that phrase} reason, "My hour has not yet come."

There are 7 references to "his hour" in the gospel of John. And if we could just take a moment, I would like you to see them.

The first of which is this chapter. Chapter 2.

Now, come to the second one. Chapter 7 verse 30....Here we read: "They were seeking therefore to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come."

Chapter 8, please, verse 20...."These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come."

Chapter 12, please, verse 23..."And Jesus answered them saying, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'"

Vs 27 same chapter..."Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save me from this hour'? ^{But} ~~But~~ for this purpose I came to this hour"

Chapter 16, verse 32..."Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave me alone; and yet I am not ^{alone} ~~alone~~, because the Father is with me."

Then chapter 17 verse 1 as he is praying in the garden,.. "These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, he said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify thee."

Now, what was ~~"the hour"~~ ^{meant} by. "My hour has not ^{yet} come?"

Most people would answer "the cross" or "suffering"....And that is correct.

But, that is not the point of what Jesus said to Mary....The point that the hour has not yet come and ~~therefore~~ ^{Therefore what} Mary did not understand ~~that~~ ^{is that} Jesus had not submitted himself, yet, to the will of man to take him until the proper moment. Jesus said in John 10, "that I will lay down my life myself. And no man will take it from me."

You see, Jesus was in control all the time. And at the moment of the cross, especially in the garden when he said those words as he prayed, "My hour is come," Judas is coming with the band of Roman soldiers, betraying Jesus, and they are going to take him. And Jesus allows them to take him. Before they do take him, he shows them that he is voluntarily giving himself to them.

Now How did he do that? The Bible says that he looked upon the soldiers and they all fall over backwards. He remained those soldiers that they could not take him by force. Then he willingly gave himself to them. Because his hour had come, He came into the world to die on the cross. Jesus wasn't on the cross because men over took him in his plans. He wanted to go to the cross. He came into the world to die.

The Bible says that he was a lamb slain before the foundation of the world. It was in the plan of God that Jesus would die on the cross.

So, what is the issue ~~back in~~ ^{has in} John 2? The issue is .."Woman, my hour has not yet come." In other words, I am not submitting my will to you or to anyone else. I am the eternal God. The Father sent me into this world for a definite purpose. When my hour comes, then I will submit into the hands of others. But not now.

And he remained Mary of something she had heard before. Do you remember in Luke 2 in the last few verses of that chapter, when Jesus was 12

years old, he ~~loved~~ ^{loved} his parants for a mement it seems. He was stayingg in the Temple to discuss ~~with~~ ^{with} the leaders the law. His parants had left Jersualem. And it was then that they discovered that Jesus was missing. So, they returned to find him. And they found him teaching in the temple. And when they confronted him, Jesus said: "I must be about my Father's business." And the Bible says at the end of Luke 2 that Mary kept those things in her heart and pondered them.

She remembered what he said. And on this occasion Jesus is remaind~~ing~~ her of the same thing. My hour has not yet come.. It is not time for ~~me~~ ^{me} to submit to anyone, including my own mother.

And the point is very important.....

(4) The fourth thing that I would like you to notice, emphasizes that point. And that is what Mary had in mind would not accomp~~k~~ish what she thought. And that is why Jesus had to remaind her of what he did, when he said, "My hour has not yet come."

What ~~did~~ she have in mind? I will tell you what she had in mind. And that is what every mother has in mind.

Look at the opportunity Jesus! They have no wine. What a chance, now, to publical display yourself as the son of God and the saviour of the world.

Now, before you put Mary down to far, let me say, that I praise God that this woman knew that her son was all that he claimed to be. The very brothers of Jesus, those who grewup with him, according to the Bible, did not believe in him. But Mary did. Maryknow who Jesus was. And she saw this j~~o~~ccasion with all these people as an opportunity for Jesus to perform a miracle. She believed in him. And for that I praise God. This woman, at this point, is a testimony to all ofus. She believed in the power of her own son. And she knew that he was all that he claimed.

But, the thing that was wrong was that she tried to accomplish something that was not in the will of God at this moment. She wanted him to deminstrate his power. Hoping that all would follow him,..But Jesus in perfect order and perfect plan knew that the multitudes at first would be impressed with the sign, yet Jesus knew that there would be a growing reaction against him.

And soon he would be on that cross, dieing for the sins of the whole world. Oh, he is the King, all right. And Mary was certainly excited to know that He was the Messiah. But, that great and precious truth about the Messiah, the Jews today still stumble over, is that the Messiah had to suffer and He had to die on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. He will come in power and great glory one day. But, he was the Messiah who had to suffer and had to die.

(5-D) This brings us to Mary's reply to the servants. This reply tells me that she was not hurt by what Jesus said. But, that she understood and she responded. I think this is tremendous. What a wonderful testimony.

Vs. 5 says: "His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it." What a beautiful responds. No discussion. No questions. Mary understood and her reply indicated that she was not hurt. She understood what Jesus meant. For she, who had keep all these things in her heart, just by that simple remainder, remembered all that ^{God}~~god~~ had told her, and she remembered all that she had been shown, and knew that everything was under control in His wonderful hands.

(We will finish this story next week) But, Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful if we would all respond like Mary. If we would just accept the claims of Jesus. He is ^{God}~~god~~. If we could just accept that and respond like Mary, we too would have the same peace, the same testimony, and the same joy.

You, who have an ear, let him hear what the Word of God says.

Shall we close with a word of prayer?

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for the miracles of Jesus. And because of those miracles we would know that Jesus is God. And we would pray, Lord, that people here this morning would come to full realization of His person and power. That they would place their faith and trust in Jesus and Jesus alone for salvation. And know that only Jesus can save. {We thank you for those visiting with us today. We pray that the Word of God would be precious to their heart. That they will be encouraged to know that the Bible is taught and preached in this church. We thank you, Lord, for those who have been visiting continually. Perhaps some on the very point of decision. And have not yet, come to that joy of knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord. We pray, Father, that the one who changed the water into wine, will change them from sin into that perfect standing of righteousness with Christ. We thank you Lord for every believer who has gathered today to hear your Word. And we pray that we would know again of His power. And in knowing, help us to grow in the grace and Knowledge of Jesus our Lord.

And we pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen