

### **The Wedding at Cana**

John 2:1-12 - On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> 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 <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

<sup>12</sup> After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

**Vs. 11 points out that the point to this sign is that it reveals the Glory of Christ.**

### **What is the glory of Christ revealed in this story?**

*What is clear is that this first sign is linked with the summary statement of the purpose of the book in 20:30–31. In both places, the disciples saw and believed (2:11; 20:29). The time would come when blessing would be pronounced on new generations of followers who could not possibly see these events, but who have nevertheless believed and seen something of the glory of the Son (20:29)*

A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell.

– C. S. Lewis

### **The Purpose of This Book**

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the first of 7 Signs...

1. *The transformation of water into wine (2:1-11)*
2. *The healing of the nobleman's son (4:46-54).*
3. *The healing of the man at Bethesda (5:1-10).*
4. *The feeding of the five thousand (John 6:1-15).*
5. *The walking on the water (John 6:16-21).*
6. *The healing of the blind man (John 9:1-41).*
7. *The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)*

### **First his glory is revealed through his view of relationships...**

- *In this Gospel she is not called Mary but is designated as the “mother of Jesus” or “his mother” (2:1, 3, 5; 19:25–26). Accordingly, Jesus did not derive his significance from his mother but the reverse. Indeed, such should be true of everyone attached to Jesus.*

### **Second his glory is revealed through his view of time...**

- *In the Gospel of John the entire life of Jesus was directed toward obeying the Father and fulfilling the hour (hōra). In this Gospel the ultimate focus of “the hour” is on the glorification of Jesus—his death and resurrection (7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1; cf. also the use of kairos, “time,” in 7:6, 8). What may seem to be harsh words, therefore, must be understood in the full context of Jesus’ destiny and his obedience to the Father*
- What is “his hour”?
- His hour is the hour of his death when he will die for sinners and make purification for sins.
  - John 7:30: “So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.”
  - John 8:20: “No one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.”
  - John 12:27: “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.”
  - John 12:23–24: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”
  - Jesus’ hour was the hour of his death when the Lamb of God would take away the sin of the world. This would be the ultimate purification, as John said in 1 John 1:7, “the blood of Jesus his Son

purifies us from all sin” (the verb is katharizei which corresponds to the word katharismos in John 2:6).

### **Third his glory is revealed through his view of his purpose...**

- *In reflecting on the text, however, we must first recall that Jesus’ mother appears in only two stories in this Gospel, here and at the cross (19:25–27). In the tender context of the cross, where at his death Jesus demonstrated his role as the eldest son and provided for his mother’s care, he again addressed her as “Woman” (19:26).*
- I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the cross.....In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? I have entered many Buddhist temples in different Asian countries and stood respectfully before the statue of Buddha - - his legs crossed, arms folded, eyes closed, the ghost of a smile playing round his mouth, a remote look on his face, detached from the agony of the world. But each time, after awhile, I have had to turn away. And in imagination, I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross -- nails through his hands and feet, back lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. That is the God for me ! He laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us. Our sufferings become more manageable in light of his. There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross, which symbolizes divine suffering. The cross of Christ is God's only self justification in such a world as ours.  
– John R. W. Stott
- “For you will certainly carry out God's purpose, however you act, but it makes a difference to you whether you serve like Judas or like John.”  
– C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*