

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Therefore we consider part of His word this morning and not the word of man. The God breathed Word for this morning is from the Gospel of John 2:1-11.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 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." 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. 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*. 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!" This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

So far our text. Dear fellow redeemed.

Some of you haven't experienced it. Some of you may never experience it. But, do you like applying for a job? I myself have always found the process quite stressful.

Looking for a job itself can be disheartening. When you look through ads it always seems like there's abundant work in every field but the one you're looking for.

Although many places now require that you fill out an application online; many of these first applications are actually psychiatric evaluations. I don't even want to comment on that. If you pass this so-called psychiatric evaluation you then get the privilege of filling out a normal application that includes work history.

When I would fill out an application I always wondered if my spelling was correct. If the application was one you did by hand I always tried to make my penmanship the best it could be.

Taking an application into an employer seems to have another set of rules. Did I dress up enough? Did I dress down enough? Then there's always the dreaded, "I'm sorry but we've already filled the position." And it came out of the mouth of the receptionist sometimes even before I asked to apply.

And then the worst dread of all. Am I qualified? Do I have enough experience? Do I have too little?

In a way, you could say that Jesus had job requirements from His heavenly Father. He was required to be and to do certain things for Him to be qualified for the work He was sent to do.

Therefore let us be glad that all of Scripture is our Savior's resume. And in our text for today we are shown that, **"Jesus' glory was made known in Cana by a sign."**

The setting for our text is a wedding which took place at Cana in Galilee. It will be at the same time familiar and

foreign to us. A wedding (to the fear of our parents here today) used to last for several days. Remember that the couple was actually officially married at this point. That is what betrothal is as in the case of Mary and Joseph. But the practice was to have the couple continue to live with their parents until an appointed time. When they finally began to live together this celebration would take place.

This particular celebration took place three days after Jesus and His disciples traveled down from Bethabara beyond the Jordan. It is important that the time and location of the event in our text is revealed to us. The people who were to read the Gospel of John would have ample information to look into the events revealed in this account. They might have been able to hear from witnesses that the events found in the word were in fact the truth.

Our text says that the mother of Jesus was there. This statement indicates that she was officially invited. Along with her our text says, **"Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding."** Because of the way things are worded we find that Jesus was likely invited because of Mary being His mother. And the disciples were invited because they were guests of Jesus. This is another particular custom for these celebrations that are very foreign to us.

But a horrible thing happened, **"And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."** This happening would've been a great embarrassment to the family and possibly to Mary. Her involvement is taken as someone very close to the family and one who was possibly in charge of part of the celebration.

What Mary does is quite telling. She says to Jesus **"They have no wine."** Mary fully expected Jesus to do or to be able to do something about it; either in a verbal recommendation or His ability to do something miraculous.

Now Jesus' response is very commonly miss-understood. He says, **"Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."** First in regards to the use of the term, woman. This has been taken that Jesus was being rude to His mother and many have faulted Jesus for it. But there are many clear uses of this term in secular Greek literature showing that it was a common form of speaking. In fact many show that it was a way of speaking respectfully.

The rest of what Jesus said to Mary has also come under attack. Jesus said, **"What does your concern have to do with Me?"** This does indeed sound harsh. But when one takes such a small phrase and doesn't examine it in its context things will become difficult.

To understand this phrase we need to continue. **"My hour has not yet come."** Jesus wasn't refusing to provide the desires of His mother. The time that it was appointed that He provide the wine simply hadn't come yet. We might paraphrase this section in this way, 'Madam, why do you concern me with this now, it's not yet time for me to intervene.'

I believe what causes the most difficulty is the fact that Mary went to Jesus even though this miracle was going to take place without her asking Jesus about it.

And Mary not as a mother but as a believer in the Messiah says, **"Whatever He says to you, do it."** It is a response of trust. One that isn't angry at the words Jesus used towards her. But a response where she understood that it wasn't up to her to dictate the times at which the Son of God would do what the Father asked of Him. She simply left it in His hands.

And this is what was left in the hands of Jesus, **“Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 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*. 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.”**

A believing Christian hears this account and marvels. But once again the world makes it out to be some kind of trick. The 6 stone pots which held 20-30 gallons apiece were purification jars used by the Jews. Their use ranged from cleansing out the yeast which was prescribed. They were also used for pharisaical requirements which were not prescribed by God. It is also very possible that the feet of the guests were washed using the water from these stone pots.

Jesus told the servants to fill the pots. Notice how Jesus didn't involve Himself with the filling of the water. It would've taken the servant's some time to fill up these pots. And once they were filled completely to the top Jesus told the servant's to take some to the master of the feast. Once again, Jesus didn't involve Himself. He Himself didn't distribute the wine.

But when the one in charge tasted it, he was drinking wine. Not water. Not some kind of toxic mixture which some say is how this was done. But simple wine.

Our text even reveals that the master of the feast didn't know where the wine came from. He certainly would've seen the servants filling the pots. He likely thought they were preparing for the washing. But what he saw them do was fill them with water, not wine.

But as our text says, **“But the servants who had drawn the water knew.”** There would be no one who could tell these servants anything else besides the water, which they filled, had indeed become wine. Which was attested to by the tasting from the master of the feast.

It was custom for the master of the feast to taste and approve of what was being served. It is the same as a chef tasting his food before it goes out to the customer. His reputation is on the line. But the man tasted good wine. Not the lesser quality which was served later. He was amazed and even praised the bridegroom for it. And this happened on that day to serve one purpose.

“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”

Jesus performed this miracle to show that He was in fact the Only begotten Son of God. And the changing of water into real wine was a manifestation of His glory.

Only God alone has the power over His creation; to be able to change elements from one to another. He alone had the power to give sight, and to give the power to men. These things declare Him to be the Son of God. If a man came stating that he had done these things but didn't have witnesses of it, what good would they be. We would be left in doubt as to the authenticity of Jesus being the Messiah.

But we see other things in our text that reveal His glory. The fact that Jesus attended this wedding shows the happiness with which God has with marriage. An institution created by Him. We see the Son of God making wine from water. Many of our day, even the Jews of Jesus' time faulted Jesus for drinking alcohol. Jesus even said this in response to them. **“The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners.”**

The fact that Jesus didn't hypocritically abstain from wine reveals His truthfulness to His Father's will.

And as we found in revealing what His responses to His mother mean, He retained the love that a son should have for his father and mother. But even greater was the need for Jesus to do the will of His heavenly Father. Jesus didn't wrongfully pursue the will of others when He was asked in conflict with what people desire of Him. He told Mary that the time to change the water into wine had not yet come.

If He had been disobedient to His mother or wrongfully fulfilled this miracle according to man's timeline God would've sinned. We would've never heard the words from the mount, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**" These things seem simple to us, maybe to the point of being trivial. But without this complete perfection Jesus couldn't have been the spotless Lamb of God who took away all of your sins.

Without this perfection the shedding of His blood would've been just another man, a sinner, dying a shameful death on the side of the road. But Jesus did complete all things. He completed them perfectly and at the time appointed by the Father.

And the point of this is also found in our text in the words, "**And His disciples believed in Him.**"

Jesus performed this miracle immediately for the sake of His newly acquired disciples. They already believed in Him but Jesus wished to strengthen their faith by doing this for them.

Jesus said, "**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**" But thanks be to God that He is merciful and generous in providing the proof that He Himself is that One Lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world, your sins. Amen.