

The Book of John - 15

Introduction - This will mark the second lesson as we look at the first 12 verses of John chapter 2. Remember, we have already discussed the cultural background of both events in this chapter. In this passage, we have already seen the:

1. The **introduction** of the event. v1
2. The **invitation** to the event. v2
3. The **issue** at the event. v3
4. The **intimation** at the event. v3

Let's begin where we left off in **verse 3**.

v3 *“And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.”*

The Lord's response is found in **verse 4** *“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.”*

- The term woman itself is not demeaning but rather the typical way of addressing a woman.
- The Lord's response was to help Mary understand their relationship as it related to His person and office rather than her maternal authority.
- Lastly, this phrase, *“mine hour yet come...”* speaks to the specific and purposeful action of the God-man. Nothing was happenstance. Every detail and movement of the Lord's life and ministry was according to God's plan.

In **John 12:23**, we see again the reference to this hour, *“23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.”*

This hour is not a literal 60 minutes, but it concerns the Lord's betrayal and crucifixion. Likewise, when we think of the prophetic term “the Lord's day,” we would understand that the Bible is not referring to a 24hr period but rather a program of end-time events. Just like Mary, we are able to comprehend, **in part**, all that God is doing according to His will. We have the “big picture” given to us in His Word. But the Lord alone knows in totality all that is and will take place. Our responsibility is to trust in the Lord. We see this displayed in the submission of Mary.

*“His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, **do it.**”*

5. The _____ from Mary's understanding. v5

These instructions are concise, yet they hold **great wisdom for you and me.**

There is a tract geared toward Roman Catholicism that quotes this verse because they venerate Mary. The gist of the tract is to dissuade others from venerating Mary and instead listen to the words of the Savior, like John 14:6, which states, “6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*”

There is also a valuable lesson here concerning exhorting others and our faith. Mary’s faith spurred others’ faith. Indeed, we could look at the situation without knowing the end result and see that Mary demonstrated faith in the Lord.

6. The **immensity** of the miracle. v6

John 2:6 “6 *And there were set **there six waterpots of stone**, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing **two or three firkins apiece.**”*

A firkin is approximately **9 or 10 gallons**. So, we are looking at **18 to 27 gallons** per waterpot. This amounts to **108 to 162 gallons**. And while we are not told how many guests were present, this is a tremendous amount of wine.

John Philips gives us this insight, “The water in these stone jars was for the ceremonial cleansing of the wedding guests. The Jewish religion demanded close attention to personal hygiene. The “purifying” included the washing of hands and utensils used in the serving of guests (**Mark 7:3-4**).”

The laver was “In the Tabernacle, a vessel of brass containing water for the priests to wash their hands and feet before offering sacrifice...” “In Solomon's Temple, besides the great Molten Sea, there were ten lavers of brass, raised on bases, 1Ki 7:27; 1Ki 7:39, five on the north and five on the south side of the court of the priests.” (Smith’s Bible Dictionary)

In a symbolic sense, these waterpots speak to the **emptiness of religion** without a relationship with God. Vain religious exercise will leave you empty.

7. The challenging **instructions** from the Lord. v7

John 2:7 “7 *Jesus saith unto them, **Fill the waterpots with water.** And they filled them up to the brim.*”

Think of these challenging instructions for a moment. The only previous instruction that was given was by Mary. Can you imagine 162 of these gallon jugs? There would be a reason to doubt. But what is the job of a servant? These nameless servants **received a blessing because they obeyed.**

Notice several things about their service:

The Lord used lowly servants.

The Lord gave them a command to be obeyed. (We cannot and should not expect the blessings of the Lord without obedience.) Please notice in the text that the servants obeyed and zealously carried out the command.

They filled the **pots to the brim**. The Bible says, “...*And they filled them up to the brim.*” A gallon weighs 8.35 lbs. At that weight, we are at around 902 lbs on the low end of our beginning measurements.

The work of the Lord involves work. Understanding then the immensity of water that we to be drawn, we see that these servants had to work to fill these waterpots.

The Lord used what the people had. Just as the five loaves and two fishes were multiplied, **the Lord delights to use what He has given us.** Acting in faith is giving back to God what He has given you.

1 Corinthians 4:7 *“7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?”*

I am reminded of the song “Little is much when God is in it” One of the verses of that hymn states,

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.
Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown-and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' Name.

Our action alone is not sufficient. We see the careful zealous obedience of the servants, but without the work of the Lord, this labor would avail to nothing. God does what only God can do. We can see this example at the end of the book of John, which illustrates this principle. And the principle is this: God’s work requires the work of God. In **Luke chapter 24**, the Lord was preparing His disciples for His crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. There was a time when they would be without His bodily presence. He prepares them by giving instructions for that time.

Luke 24:46-49 “46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: **but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**”

One step of faith leads to another.

Notice what the Bible says **v8-9** “And he saith unto them, **Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.** When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: **(but the servants which drew the water knew;)** the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,”

7. The instruction in the miracle. **v8-11**

What is the instruction in this first sign? Notice with me what the summation is concerning this sign. The Bible tells us in **verse 11**, “*This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and **manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.***”

This sign had two grand purposes.

The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ was manifested.
The faith of His disciples and others was strengthened.

8. The importance of this miracle. **v11-12**

John 2:11-12 “*11 **This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.** 12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.*”

What the Lord made was new. He did not make something old **but presented something new.** It was exceeding and abundant. It was exceedingly able to suffice the present need and beyond.