

John 2:1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁴ "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." ¹¹ This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Look to Jesus and put your faith in him.

Jesus had told Nathanael that he had seen him under the fig tree and the one who wondered what good could come out of Nazareth was so impressed that he called Jesus the Son of God. How quickly Nathanael was swayed and yet Jesus responded, ***"You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that."*** And they would. Today we hear about the first of Jesus miraculous signs as he changed water into wine.

Here we see that Jesus had just assembled his disciples. They willingly followed him, but you have to believe that they were still a bit unsure about who this Jesus from Nazareth truly was. As they traveled with Jesus to a wedding in Cana of Galilee their faith would receive a miraculous boost.

It appears that this was a relative of Jesus that was getting married as his mother Mary was there and Jesus and his new friends, the disciples, were all invited. And then an unexpected problem arose. The couple ran out of wine. Jesus mother came over to her special son and asked him for assistance that she knew he could give. ***"They have no more wine."*** You can almost imagine how Mary looked at Jesus with an expectant hope. *You can do this. I know you can. You can save our friends*

and family from disgrace and shame. I know you can do this. I trust in you. I know who you are.

But one has to wonder how the disciples looked at him. There was Mary putting Jesus in this difficult situation, expecting him to do something when there really was nothing practically speaking that anyone could do. There was no more wine. In those days you couldn't just make a run to the local store or liquor mart. What did Mary expect Jesus to do? What could he do? From little on we have heard about the miracles, but remember these disciples had not yet seen him walk on water, or calm the storm. They had not yet see him feed the five thousand or heal the lame and give sight to the blind. Yeah, he had told Nathanael where he was sitting, but what could he really do in this impossible situation?

With eyes of wonder and uncertain anticipation the disciples must have watched, they waited. But Mary remained confident. Even when Jesus assured her that this wasn't the most ideal circumstances or most ideal time for him to reveal his glory, she trusted in Jesus. She had faith in her son, for she knew who Jesus was. She remembered the message of the angel. ***"Nothing is impossible with God."*** She remembered the remarkable events that surrounded his birth. She had pondered all those things in her heart and held them in her heart all these years and so now she responded in faith. The God who does the impossible had given her this child and so in her mind this was not an impossible request, but she put her trust in Jesus. Jesus could do it. Jesus could take care of this.

It's an interesting and telling exchange, isn't it? ³ ***When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."*** ⁴ ***"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."*** ⁵ ***His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*** One has to think that Mary not only knew the power that Jesus possessed but knew the kindness of his heart, the compassion that he possessed. This was God's Son, but this her son too. This was the man that she had raised. She had watched him grow from a boy into a man. And for all the time that she had spent with him she had seen his goodness, his righteousness, his wonderful character. And now in this uncomfortable time for her family and friends she was comfortable enough to make this confident request. ***"Do whatever he tells you."*** She told the servants.

To be a disciple witnessing that scene must have been a bit surreal. Who was this Jesus? What were they about to see? Most mothers think a lot of their sons, but this seemed a bit much. And so we can imagine how the heads of the disciples might have swiveled from mother to son, from Mary to Jesus, back and forth, and finally they were fixed on Jesus with wide eyes of wonder and a ready stare.

Jesus then directed their attention to those six stone water jars, each one holding from 20 to 30 gallons, as he gave these instructions to the servants. ***“Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”*** And then the impossible happened. Jesus somehow changed water into wine. In his compassion and with his great power he saved this young couple from social disgrace and embarrassment. Gallons upon gallons of water became the choicest of wine and there was enough for all. And so the eyes of the disciples, that just moments before were perhaps filled with uncertain wonder, now looked upon him in faith. John tells us, ¹¹ ***This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.***

How do we look at Jesus? Do we look to him in faith or do we look with uncertain anticipation or doubt? When trouble comes, or life is hectic, or in those little moments of life that are brimming with stress do we look at him with the confident stare and the faith-filled gaze that Mary gave or do we wonder if he can do anything at all? As believers there are certainly moments that we ponder in our hearts who he is and when those difficult times come upon us we look to our Savior Jesus in faith. We look upon his love and compassion. We look upon him and know that he is the one who healed the sick and calmed the storm, and changed water into wine and therefore he can help me. And so we put our faith, our trust in him, in obvious ways. But there are also situations where we neglect, or forget, or limit his power. We get stuck in a tough situation and we wonder why we would even ask Jesus to help. *This is my mess. This is my problem. I have to figure it out by myself. Practically speaking what could he do for me anyway? How could Jesus fix my marriage? How could praying to Jesus or listening to his word do anything to help me with my finances, with my anxiety, with my depression? What good could he do anyway?* And so we don't even bother to go to him, to search his word, or ask him in prayer.

Or if we do pray, if we do come to him, we come without conviction, we come not trusting him fully. *It probably won't work anyway, but I should probably talk to Jesus about this. At least give it a shot.* We do this and we limit his power, and there are also other times that we limit his compassion. We might go to him with our big problems, when there is a death, or an illness, or tragedy, or a spiritual problem has hit or is lurking, and we go to him then. But we limit his compassion when it comes to smaller items. *Why should I involve him in this? He wouldn't care about all my troubles. He wouldn't care about my embarrassment. It's just some trouble at work, it's just some stuff at school, it's just a few frustrations at home. He's got better things to do than to hear about my car problems, or the bad day that I just had.*

But that's not the kind of Savior that we see here. We see a Savior who acts in compassion. Without seeking outward attention, knowing that this is not really the most advantageous circumstances for him, Jesus helps this young couple anyway because they are simply in need of help. He doesn't stand to gain much glory from this display, but still he is willing to help and so he acts, and he acts in power and compassion. He acts because he cares.

Here, we see a Savior, in Jesus, that is full of compassion. We know from the Holy Scriptures that he would go on from here to heal and help all sorts of people, the sinners, the outcast, and many others who cried out to him for help. He became one of us as he took on flesh to live and die for us, but along the way let us not forget how often we see that he had a heart that was so full of compassion for those who suffer through the human condition. He too felt the problems of this world. He grew weary and tired. He experienced hunger and pain. He cried tears of sorrow. He mourned the death of those he loved. And we are told that at on at least one occasion he would look at those who were crowding around him with genuine care and he would have compassion on them as they were like sheep without a shepherd. He was even so very patient and compassionate and forgiving when his own disciples would doubt and desert him.

With the eyes of faith, we look upon Jesus as our LORD and Savior. We recall how powerful and how compassionate he was, he is, and will always be. We know that Mary's Son is the Son of God who cared about us so much that he went to the cross for us; to forgive us, to grant us eternal life. And as the good book says, that if he did all this for you, how will he not also graciously grant you all things. The apostle Paul writes in the book of Romans. ***He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32).***

Look to Jesus and put your faith in him. Trust in him and then encourage each other to trust in Jesus especially during those stressful times. Consider how Mary's faith in Jesus in these anxious moments must have encouraged the disciples to look to Jesus and trust in him. Consider how your faith in your LORD might have a similar effect with those around you. Let us encourage each other to trust in our Savior. Remember who your Savior is. Ponder anew what your almighty Savior can do. Your loving Savior is the true God of power and compassion. So ask, seek, knock, and know that the door will be opened. And do as one of those disciples who saw that water changed into wine, encourages you to do, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7). Look to Jesus in everything for he is your capable and compassionate Savior and he cares for you. Amen.