

Jesus and the bride

John 2:1-11

[AV: *The Chosen*. Season 1. Episode 5.]

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Summary: As the Apostle John continues recounting his memoirs, he highlights two events in the second chapter, to help his readers to **“believe so that by believing you may have life in His Name”** (purpose for writing, John 20:31). The two events are the wedding at Cana, and Jesus’ cleansing the temple.

These two events show us Jesus’ authority over all of creation, even at the molecular level. They also show us Jesus’ focus on His Father’s plan, and His intentionality in carrying out those plans. In other words, Jesus was Kingdom-focused. Faith in Jesus, partnering with Him, produces results far beyond what we can imagine. This causes us to ask, who is Jesus to you? A second question must follow, what are your priorities? Are you Kingdom-focused? Remember, as we are humble, we receive compassion, but our pride brings condemnation.

1. Jesus’ First Sign: Authority over Creation (everything).

Jesus has already asked a handful of people to **“follow me,”** (i.e. “believe in and learn from me...”). The wedding in Cana was a celebration. Jesus, his followers, and his mother were invited to attend. When the unthinkable (running out of wine) happened, Jesus’ mother implored him to intervene. Even though he expressed **“my time has not yet come,”** she instructed the servants to **“do whatever he tells you.”** He simply instructed the servants to fill six large jars with water, then take some to the master of ceremonies. To everyone’s joy, Jesus transformed the water into wine; enough for all, and then some. Even though only the servants, Mary, and his disciples knew Jesus had performed His first miracle. John tells us as a result, the disciples **“put their faith in Him”**. Mary already had faith in her son, the One she knew was sent from God.

a) Jesus’ timing was perfect!

Jesus told His mother **“My time has not yet come.”** He was referencing HIS time in John 17:1 **“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”** He was also referring to God’s timing to Isaiah 55:9: **“For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”**

b) Faith in Jesus produces results, far beyond what we can imagine (2:5-8).

Mary had faith in Jesus, maybe even more than the disciples at this point. Of course, she had the message of the angel, and 30 years of living with the Word made flesh. She simply asked Jesus to

intervene when the wine ran out, and in an incredible act of faith, told the servants to do whatever He told them to do. Faith in Jesus is all we need to experience results in our life, far beyond what we can ask or imagine.

“Jesus really did change the water into wine, thus revealing his glory. At a molecular level, the water, basically hydrogen and oxygen, was changed into wine that contains sugars, yeast, and water, which contain carbon and nitrogen along with oxygen and hydrogen. Thus, by changing water into wine Jesus demonstrated his authority over even the atomic structure by commanding oxygen and hydrogen atoms to disassemble and reform into other atoms of different configurations. The amount of energy it would take to perform this atomic deconstruction and reconstruction is staggering. This intermolecular energy being released is the source of the explosive energy from an atomic bomb. However, since Jesus caused the wine atoms to come back together, he would have to put this astronomical amount of energy into the atoms to have them reconstruct.”¹

Jesus had come to bring about conversion: water to wine, sinners to saints. When the master of ceremonies tasted the wine, he said, **“you have kept the best until now!”** Jesus produced the best wine ever. Not necessarily because of the bouquet, taste, or vintage of the wine, but because it was made by the very hands that fashioned the stars and formed humanity from clay. Isaiah prophesies of a time when the Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears in a delicious banquet with **“clear, well-aged wine and choice meat”** (Isaiah 25:6). This sounds like a wedding we are all waiting to attend!

c) Who is Jesus (to you)? Is He the most intelligent person you have ever met?

The changing of the water to wine was the first of seven signs recounted by John to reveal the Father’s glory through Jesus, His son. **“And his disciples believed in him.”** When we understand who Jesus is, we too are called to belief, either initially, or continually. At the end of the episode, the author identifies this as **“the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him”** (John 2:11). The purpose of the sign is to reveal Jesus’ glory and to provoke faith in him.

God orchestrated an event where Jesus would perform His first miracle, the first of seven signs. This indicates salvation was coming through Jesus’ words and actions. John states this was **“the first of the signs through which He revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in Him”** (2:11). God’s plan for our life is that we spent time with Jesus, in union with Him. This brings us to believe He can and will do anything. I repeat, who is Jesus to you?

2. Jesus’ Passion... for His Father’s Plan.

In the second half of the chapter, Jesus goes to the Temple and upon finding the outer courtyard, the court of the gentiles, bustling with business, He becomes angry. Turning over tables and chasing animals off, Jesus yells, **“stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”** When asked by what authority He was acting, Jesus’ reply was prophetic **“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it in three days.”** Of course, they thought of the physical temple, but Jesus was prophesying concerning His body. Jesus was proclaiming **His death would be the event where Heaven and Earth would meet!** The cross would become the place of sacrifice of the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, but also the stumbling block for others. The cross is the pivotal event in history, and in each life.

¹ <https://www.whatdoesthismean.org/the-science-corner/the-science-of-jesus-miracle-in-john-2-cliff-lewis-phd>

John recounts how these events, when looked back upon, show Jesus' passion and His acting with the Kingdom in mind. John states, *"Jesus revealed His glory, and the disciples believed in Him."*

a) Jesus' focus was on Kingdom priorities, first things first ("Seek first the Kingdom" Matt. 6:33).

When Jesus saw the business of religion taking place in the court of the Gentiles, He became angry and cleared the temple. He shouted, *"Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"* Later he would tell His followers to *"Seek first the kingdom of God"* (Matt. 6:33).

b) Jesus compelled people to believe!

When confronted by the Jewish leaders Jesus said, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* Of course, Jesus was prophesying about His body and not the physical building. Jesus had the end of His ministry in view. The author's note illustrates the principle that the Gospel presents the life of Jesus in the light of the Cross & Resurrection and of the apostolic experience based on the results of those events." In the end, the author John reports, *"his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said"* (v. 22). Jesus' death is where heaven and earth meet! The cross is the central signpost for all time... the separation between BC (before Christ), and AD (Anno domini) the year of our Lord.

c) Jesus had compassion on the humble, but condemnation of the proud.

Jesus was always tenderhearted and compassionate with the hurting, meek, and those seeking, but stern and hard on the proud, who thought they had it all together. In Matt. 23:1 ff, Jesus told his listeners to obey what the "interpreters of the law" taught, but not to follow them. Instead, He taught, *"The greatest among you must be a servant"* (Matt. 23:11).

Reflection questions:

1. Who is Jesus to me?
 - How do you perceive Jesus in your daily life? Is He a teacher, savior, friend, or something else?
2. Do I believe in Jesus?
 - What does belief in Jesus mean for you personally? How does it influence your actions and decisions?
3. What are my priorities?
 - Are your daily priorities aligned with God's Kingdom? What steps can you take to ensure they are?
4. How am I Kingdom-focused?
 - How do you actively seek to further God's Kingdom in your life? What specific goals or ministries are you involved in?