

February 17, 2019am – Walking With Jesus (Gospel of John)

Pt. 7 – Saving the Best for Last – John 2:1-12

**Walking
With
Jesus**

through the
Gospel of John



John 2:1-12

**Saving
the Best
for Last**



There is a vast contrast between God and Satan.

“God is Holy-Satan is unholy; God is love-Satan is filled with hatred; God is high-Satan is low; God wants to save men-Satan wants to see them lost; God wants to take men to heaven-Satan wants to take them to hell; God loves peace and harmony-Satan loves strife”. (Hobbs. *Simple Sermons from John*. P. 64)

Most of us would agree that Satan gives mankind his best things first, but in the end he gives them nothing but misery and hell. “But the things of God grow sweeter and better every day, and in the end He gives them heaven with its everlasting joys”. (Hobbs.p.64)

In today’s passage we see this ‘best for last’ principle revealed.

YouTube Video 12:52 – 16:20 The Gospel of John

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47OkuvT5JFo&t=218s>

John 2:1-12...¹*On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and*
²*Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding as well.* ³*When the wine ran out, Jesus’ mother told Him, “They don’t have any wine.”* ⁴*“Dear woman, what has this concern to do with us?” Jesus asked. “My hour has not yet come.”* ⁵*“Do whatever He tells you,” His mother told the servants.* ⁶*Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained 20 or 30 gallons.* ⁷*“Fill the jars with water,” Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim.* ⁸*Then He said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the chief servant.” And they did.* ⁹*When the chief servant tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom*
¹⁰*and told him, “Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people have drunk freely, they serve the inferior. But you have kept the finest wine until now.”* ¹¹*Jesus performed this first sign in Cana of Galilee. He displayed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.* ¹²*After this, He went down to Capernaum, together with His mother, His brothers, and His disciples, and they stayed there only a few days.*

This is the account of the first ‘sign’ (miracle) of Jesus. “The scene has shifted from Judea, where John the Baptist was baptizing in the river Jordan, to the town of Cana, seventy miles north in the region of Galilee.

Today I want to take a very practical look at what we, here in 2019, can **takeaway** and put into practice what Jesus said and did so many years ago. **Takeaway** = a key fact, point, or idea to be remembered, typically one emerging from a discussion or meeting. (*dictionary.com*)

Takeaway No. 1: Jesus wants to be involved in our everyday life

- **John 2:1,2...**¹*On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and* ²*Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding as well.*

Takeaway No. 2: Jesus is an available source to bring our requests, needs and concerns to.

➤ **John 2:3... When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother told Him, "They don't have any wine."**

"In the Bible wine is the emblem of joy. This story gives us a true picture of the religion of the day. It had become form. All the joy had gone out of it. It can be the same for us today. We can go through the form and not have our hearts in it. Then all the joy is gone." (Hobbs. P. 68)

Takeaway No. 3: Jesus' will and purpose must always have priority in our lives

➤ ⁴ **"Dear woman, what has this concern to do with us?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come."**

Dear woman = Madam/Ma'am, Mother, Dear Lady, Dear Woman, Woman.

The word used here for woman is a little misleading. The Greek word is **gunai**. It may sound a little rough and abrupt, and in some contexts it is used in this way. But not this, Jesus used the same term **gunai** when He was on the cross and addressed His mother and John about her care.

In Greek literature we see this:

- Homer (Illiad & Osdessey author) uses this term when he addresses his well-loved wife Penelope.
- Augustus the Emperor, addressed his dear Cleopatra by this term
- It has the similar context as that of the Medieval term "My Lady"

It was not a term of disrespect, in this case it was one of respect, yet with some distance involved. Jesus

⁴ **"Dear woman, what has this concern to do with us?"**

Literally it says "what to me and what to you"

What To Me And To You? <http://drmsb.com/what-to-me-and-to-you/>

Posted by DrHeiser | Apr 25, 2012 | Biblical Study & Translation, NakedBible |

"While doing some reverse interlinear work a few days ago, I came across Joshua 15:18. The verse concerns Caleb's newly-won bride: **Joshua 15:18... When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she got off her donkey, and Caleb said to her, What do you want?**

The Hebrew literally reads: "What to you?" This is a fairly common Semiticism (Hebrew/Semitic idiomatic saying). Since it is the idiomatic expression behind the statement/question Jesus says to his mother Mary in **John 2:4**. Jesus says, literally, **"What to me and to you, O woman?"** ("woman" is in the vocative case for direct address.) Many readers mistake the question as a statement of irritation on Jesus' part, and some translations don't do much to avoid that misapprehension. In **Joshua 15**, Caleb is portrayed as wanting to be kind to his new bride. He is not irritated; he wants to do something for her to make her happy. This is the pretty clearly the case in some of the other 18 occurrences of the precise phrase found in Josh 15:18. The point is that the phrase is at times clearly a gentle one. The similar phrase ("What to me?") also occurs in the Hebrew Bible, at times in combination with "to you," as in John 2:4. The most generic way to capture what the full statement ("What to me to you?") means is "what is there that concerns me and you?" Context should steer the translator to word choices that move the translation from this neutral meaning to something that captures the situation, whether it is adversarial or congenial. There is no reason to see John's use of this idiomatic expression as indicative of irritation, or that his mother had become insufferable to Jesus. When Jesus says to Mary, **"What to me to you?"**, he isn't saying "What is it now, dear lady?" He's basically asking his mother, who brings a concern to him, **"What can I do for you?"** <http://drmsb.com/what-to-me-and-to-you/>

There is also an idea that Jesus was establishing His priorities in His ministry. He didn't come to earth to provide refreshments for party goers. He came to fulfill His Mission, (His Hour). He was revealing that family relationships are important but God's Will is to be paramount.

Vs. 4b...My hour has not yet come.

To any well learned Jew this phrase "my hour" is clearly a metaphor for the important task which is ordained for anyone. In this case Jesus' "hour" was His sacrificial death on a cross. These signs of Jesus are to be understood under the shadow of the cross, resurrection and ascension.

Takeaway No. 4: Jesus will provide abundantly if we listen, trust & obey

- **John 2:5-8...** ⁵ ***“Do whatever He tells you,” His mother told the servants. ⁶ Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained 20 or 30 gallons. ⁷ “Fill the jars with water,” Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then He said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the chief servant.” And they did.***

Vs. 5 – (Do what He tells you to do) sets a pattern by Mary of how we should all respond to Jesus. It means obedience is everything. The servants just obeyed, they didn't ask questions they just followed Jesus' directions. She demonstrated faith - a willingness to leave it in Jesus' hands, confident that whatever He said or did would be that which is best. This is the only time Mary interceded with Jesus, & her message was '**Do what He tells you to do**'

“Jesus was simply telling Mary to leave things to Him, that He would have His own way of dealing with the situation”. (Barclay. p. 98)

What you believe matters. If you believe your children's education is important you may hold off buying that new boat and save for their future. If you believe it is important to spend time with your family, you will make time with them a priority. What you believe matters.

In this story we have a choice to make, believe Jesus did a supernatural miracle or not. The Bible is either true or not. If it is true (which is my belief) then this story proves the uniqueness and power of Jesus. It authenticates what He is saying about Himself.

Six stone jars were there for purification to wash hands and feet. Jesus performed His 1st 'SIGN' here at the wedding with no fanfare or public display. He simply said fill the jars, dip the wine and taste it. He didn't even touch it He just said the Word, and it was so.

- But this sign also shows the superabundance of God's provision. 120 -180 gallons of wine is more than the whole village could drink. This is a symbol of the abundance of God's grace in Jesus for us.
- This sign also teaches us the principle of replacement. God takes the old and replaces it with the new, the best. “The old has passed away, behold all things become new”

Takeaway No. 5: Jesus saves the best for last

- **John 2:9,10....** ⁹ ***When the chief servant tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom ¹⁰ and told him, “Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people have drunk freely, they serve the inferior. But you have kept the finest wine until now.”***

We live in a time where it is easy to see all the trouble and disunity in the world and grow a little cynical and depressed. But when we follow Jesus, He will give us a renewed hope for the present but also the future. To those of us who follow Jesus we find that He saves the best for last, or as Robert Browning puts it in his 1864 poem **Rabbi Ben Ezra**:

“Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, The last of life, for which the first was made: Our times are in His hand Who saith "A whole I planned, Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid!"

Takeaway No. 6: The bottom line is we must believe in Jesus

- **John 2:11... *Jesus performed this first sign in Cana of Galilee. He displayed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.***

John gives us three (3) factors to consider in verse 11...

- (1) He said that this was a sign (a parable acted out in real life). Signs are more than just miracles, they are miracles with a meaning, intending to convey truth that would not otherwise be known (Stedman. p. 72)
They point to a deeper reality
- (2) This sign revealed the Glory of God. It is a manifestation of Jesus' glory.
The Glory of Jesus was made visible in this act. It was a sign of His power on display, in action. 'The point is that Jesus is uniquely the Son of God here to do the Work of God.'
- (3) The result was that 'the disciples believed in Him'. Remember that the main purpose of this book was so that we could believe in Jesus and receive life.
This story is a great one but if we do not choose to believe it happened and that Jesus is Who He said He is, it is nothing more than a good myth.

John, the author, recorded these signs so that we could believe and receive new life, the best life God is wanting to do something new in your life and our church. Let's live our life in the days and years ahead in obedience and faithfulness. Truly, the 'Best is Yet to Come', the 'Best is saved for last'.
Abundant life now, Eternal life forever.

Today is the 1st day of the rest of your life. Follow Jesus, Listen to Him, Obey Him, Live for Him.
JESUS HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE WATER INTO WINE
But the most amazing thing is
JESUS HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM PEOPLE'S LIVES