

## GOT A PROBLEM? JESUS IS THE ANSWER

What are some of Jesus' miracles that stick out in your mind as being powerful and dramatic? Raising from the dead Lazarus, or the daughter of Jairus or the widow from Nain's son; calming the storm; Peter walking on the water; driving out demons from a person's body; feeding of the 5000 with five loaves and two fish. There are so many that stick out in our minds as being impressive. Jesus' first miracle though of changing water into wine doesn't seem to be that big of a deal, maybe to the bride and groom who would have been embarrassed, but other than that, nothing dramatic. Quenching peoples' thirst with wine doesn't really stack up to the dead being raised, diseases and handicaps being healed or demons being driven out.

So why did God consider it important to document this miracle? It's because this miracle teaches us an important lesson in life. No matter how big or small the problem may be, Jesus knows what's going on. He cares and he can help. In other words. Got a problem? Jesus is the answer. He is the answer to all our problems and needs. When the time is right, he will help according to his will and to his glory.

Jesus had just begun his ministry and had already called 6 men to be his disciples. In fact, 3 days after he called them to follow him, they attended a wedding in Cana. We don't know who they were but there's a good chance they were related to Mary. Wedding celebrations at Jesus' time were even bigger than they are now. They often lasted a week and were held in the house of the groom. People would come by at different times of the week to congratulate them, enjoy some food as well as wine which was a very common drink among the people. To run out of wine before the celebration was over would have been an embarrassment to the couple.

That became a problem, a problem that Mary was made aware of. She went up to Jesus and said. **They have no more wine.** Notice she didn't specifically ask Jesus to do something about it. She merely stated a fact. Why did she do that? I'm afraid it was for the same reason we often do the same. "Lord, I lost my job. We're having financial problems. My child is very sick. I'm having troubles in my marriage. My spouse has cancer." What's the idea behind making statements about things that Jesus already knows? I'm afraid those statements are more like demands. In other words, "Lord, do something about it. Take care of it. Fix it. Do it now and the way I want it fixed." Isn't that true? Isn't that sinful?

That had to be Mary's motive because of the response she got from Jesus. **Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come.** Does that sound like an obedient and respectful son? Wouldn't Mary have had the right to say? "How dare you talk to me like that and call me woman! I am your mother." My friends, Jesus was not showing disrespect to his mother in any way. **Dear woman** was the same phrase he used when he spoke to her while suffering on the cross. It really is a phrase of respect and warmth. By using this phrase here, Jesus was simply reminding her that he was God's Son first. He was her son second. He was not here to do her bidding but his Father in heaven's bidding. Mary needed to look at him foremost as the one who came to be the Savior of the world, her Savior; the one who would preach and teach and perform miracles as he saw fit and according to his timetable. Just as she had no right to make demands of him, neither do we.

Was Mary upset with Jesus' words? Did she turn around with her face red and stomp out of the house? No. She walked over to the servants and said. **Do whatever he tells you.**" That was a statement of faith. Jesus had not said he wouldn't help. He didn't say he didn't have the power to help. He simply said his time had not yet come. He was going to do things as he saw fit and when he knew the time was right. She trusted that he would. In other words, "Do what you know is best, Jesus."

Is that the attitude you have when problems or troubles come your way? It should be. Yet how often don't we give God detailed instructions on what he should do and when he should do it because we know what is best for us? When he doesn't, we get angry and accuse him of not caring or being unfair. To be sure, God wants us to bring our troubles to him but he wants us to do that in a humble and respectful way remembering whom we are and whom he is. We are nothing but dust created by God. We are sinful creatures, filthy and disgusting sinners who don't deserve a holy God to be concerned about any of our needs or problems whatsoever. We have no right to demand anything from God. We especially have no right to demand that we deserve to spend an eternity with him in heaven. In fact, just the opposite is what we deserve. Hell is where we would have ended up if God had not when the time was right **sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.** That's where we would have ended up if Jesus had not, when the time was right, handed himself over to the Jewish leaders who arrested him, had him beaten and whipped, and finally, nailed to a cross. That's where we would have ended up if Jesus had not, when the time was right, given up his life on the cross. You see, the Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers didn't really end Jesus' life. The Gospel writer Matthew tells us. **And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.** Hell is where we would have ended up if Jesus had not, when the time was right, risen from the dead. When it came to our salvation, God had it all planned out according to his timetable. His timetable is always right and best and not only when it came to taking care of our greatest problem which is sin, but also when it comes to any problems that come into our lives.

Getting back to the miracle, when the time was right for Jesus to take action, he told the servants to fill up six stone water jars that held between 20-30 gallons. After they did that, he told them to take some of that water and give it to the master of ceremony for tasting. I wonder what those servants were thinking when they took the water to him. Is this some sort of a joke? Jesus must have a sick sense of humor. When he tasted the wine, his face lit up and he 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.** Jesus was the answer to their problem. They had more than enough wine for their guests. In fact, someone estimated that if they didn't serve any of that wine to their guests, the couple would have been able to enjoy one bottle of top shelf wine a day for the next two and a half years. How would that have been for a wedding gift!

Jesus decided it was the right time and the right thing to do. Why? He did it to save the couple from embarrassment. He did it though for a much more important reason. We read in our text. **He thus revealed his glory and his disciples put their faith in him.** Now don't misunderstand that verse. Jesus' miracle did not create faith in the disciples' hearts. The Holy Spirit had already worked faith through the Gospel. That's why they were following him. This miracle though reinforced and strengthened their faith in who Jesus really was, the promised Messiah, the Son of God.

A group of people was taking a tour in the Swiss mountain region. During the tour, the guide took out a small, dead fly from the area and put it under his pocket microscope. He told the people that the legs of a fly in England had no hair on them whatsoever. But this fly was different. He showed them that these legs were covered thickly with hair. He then made the comment that the same God who made the mountains also saw to the needs of this little fly by providing, in a sense, socks and mittens for this little fly to keep warm in his home in these cold mountains.

God has told us that he has numbered all the stars in the sky and has a name for each one of them. He knows the exact number of hairs on each one of our heads, some heads being easier to count than others. A sparrow does not fall to the ground without God knowing that. Don't you think that our God who is all-wise and all powerful, who cares for all of his creatures, even a little fly as you just heard, will take care of any problem that you might have, people whom he loves and sacrificed his one and only Son for?

My friends, the miracle of changing water into wine might not stand out as one of his most powerful or dramatic miracles. In fact, very few people actually knew about it, the disciples, the servants, Mary and maybe the couple. That's it. Yet this first miracle is important because it shows who Jesus is, that he is the promised Messiah, the one sent by God to be the Savior of the world. It reminds us that Jesus is aware of every problem that we face in life even without us telling him. He still wants us to come to him in prayer but not with a demanding attitude but one that trusts he will help in the way he knows is best and when the time is right. Believe that with all your heart. Find comfort and strength in that. So my friends, got a problem? Jesus is the answer. Amen.