



1/1/26

Happy New Year! Do you want to know something that I think is so cool? Our God is a God who loves to celebrate! Do you know that in the Mosaic Law, there was only 1 required fast per year... on the day of atonement. But there were 7 required feasts per year... 7 times a year to celebrate. So... today, I hope and pray that you enjoy celebrating the new year and new life in Christ. "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

*Happy New Year!
Jonna*

John 2:1-12

This passage tells of the first recorded miracle Jesus did. He had already been baptized and had experienced the 40-day temptation in the wilderness. He had already called some of His disciples... but at this point there was no public speculation that He was the Messiah. No persecution from Pharisees. No crowds following Him. He was respected and liked.

"On the third day, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee." Jesus had been invited to the wedding with His disciples... The wedding couple had probably heard Him speak and really liked what He had to say. His mom was there, too.

It's interesting that this was "the 3rd day." A lot happens on the 3rd day in the Bible. God created land and vegetation on the 3rd day. It was the 3rd day when God provided a ram for Abraham in place of Isaac as a sacrifice. Jonah was in the belly of a really big fish for 3 days. The prophet Hosea speaks of Israel being raised up on the 3rd day. David learned of Saul's death that solidified David as king on the 3rd day. The most important, Jesus was raised from the dead on the 3rd day. Here, Jesus' first miracle happened on the 3rd day.

I think it's really cool that His first miracle was His generosity for a wedding. He's also called "the bridegroom" of the body of Christ, the church, His bride. When we get to heaven, there will be a wedding celebration... the marriage supper of the Lamb. So cool. The Lord doesn't waste a single detail!!! The more I learn, the more I see how huge and wise and sovereign He is.

He encourages my faith and joy!

So... what happened? The wine ran out before the wedding feast was over! (Jewish wedding feasts lasted 7 days.) This would have been so embarrassing for the bride and groom. They probably would never have lived it down.

Mary went to Jesus and said, "They have no wine." I imagine she knew that her Son could fix this problem. It makes me wonder if she had already seen Him do miracles as He was growing up.

Jesus answered her, "Woman, what does that have to do with Me?" Now... as an American woman, this seems really disrespectful to me! However, in their culture, Jess was actually speaking to her with great respect. Kind of like Texans who call women "Ma'am". She would not have taken any offense to Jesus addressing her as "Woman".

However, she might have been a little startled. He didn't address her as "Mom". The commentaries say this was intentional... Their relationship had changed with His entrance into His ministry. He would now address her as her Savior. However, He still viewed her as His mom, and He still cared deeply for her. I know this because when He was on the cross, He made sure His mom would be cared for... "When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved (John) standing nearby, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home" (John 19:26-27).

Back to the story... Jesus said to Mary, "My hour has not yet come." He hadn't made the official introduction of His ministry yet. He was getting His disciples in place and preparing, but He hadn't officially entered the scene as the Prophet, the Messiah. Apparently, this was no concern to Mary and she knew her Son would help... just because she knew that He had a generous, loving heart. So... she didn't even respond to Him. She just turned to the servants and said, "Do whatever He tells you."

There were 6 stone 20-30-gallon water jars whose purpose served as Jewish rites of purification. "The Jewish rites of purification are a series of ceremonial practices outlined in the Hebrew Scriptures, primarily in the Torah, that were instituted to maintain ritual cleanliness and holiness among the Israelites. These rites are deeply rooted in the covenantal relationship between God and His chosen people, emphasizing the need for purity in worship and daily life" (Topical Encyclopedia). I don't think this was a coincidence that Jesus' first miracle had to do with purification and holiness. As His bride, Ephesians 5:25-27 describes Him as the One who "loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." God is so deep in His details!!!

Jesus told the servants to fill these purification rites jars and they filled them up to the brim.

Then Jesus told them to dip some out and take it to the master of the feast (the one who oversaw all the details of the celebration). And they did! This had to take a lot of faith. If they took water to the master, they would be the ones who got in trouble.

But the master of the feast tasted the "water" which was now wine! He was shocked! Usually, the good wine is drunk first and the poor wine is saved for later in the week. But this was far superior to the wine they had been drinking. He thought this was so cool. I imagine the servants were even more shocked! They didn't see Jesus touch the water, but it was now wine!

How cool that His first miracle was revealed to servants. Jesus truly shows no partiality. All people matter to Him. These servants may have been considered less valuable in the eyes of man until the day they died. But never in the eyes of God.

This first miracle revealed Jesus' glory to the disciples who were with Him. It was the first thing that bolstered their faith... There would be many opportunities to grow their faith along the way. I bet they never forgot this first one.

Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town by the Sea of Galilee along with His mom, His brothers, and the disciples. No fanfare. No big announcement to the people that He had done a miracle. It was just for the few. Jesus didn't need to prove Himself to anyone.

How will I respond to this first miracle of Jesus? I pray that I will be like the servants who obeyed without question. I pray that I will be like the disciples who believed and followed Him wherever He went. I pray that I will see the generosity of His love, and that He is a God of celebration! Lord, thank You for letting Your glory be revealed to me.