

"WHAT CONCERN IS THAT TO YOU AND TO ME?"

The famous miracle of turning ordinary water into excellent wine at Cana was preceded by a brief exchange between Jesus and His mother:

John 2:1-4 *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." [NRSV]*

On one hand, it may be disturbing that Jesus would begin by showing what appears to be such an uncaring, uncharitable attitude towards both His mother and the host: "..... what concern is that to you and to me? This is not the time."

On the other hand, immediately afterwards, Jesus did help the people at the party, just as His mother had expected:

John 2:6-10 *Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." [NRSV]*

What am I to make of all this? Jesus saying one thing and immediately doing just the opposite.

This is one of the many instances where we may be confused or even offended by something that Jesus did or said, because we have difficulty comprehending spiritually the full nature of Christ.

When He said "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come," He spoke as the Son of God; so that everyone would realize that, as the Son of the Living God, His purpose, the cause for which He was born, was to bring the truth of God into the world. Let us remember that Jesus explained this when he answered Pilate:

John 18:37b *..... For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." [NJKV]*

As the Son of God, Jesus' focus was to bear witness to the truth,

Psalm 96:13b *..... for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth. [NRSV]*

And, as Jesus attested later to the Pharisees and followers, He was

John 8:40b *"..... a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this!" [HCSB]*

He could do this, because — as He taught Thomas, a disciple:

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." [NKJV]*

The lack of wine at the wedding party was not related to bearing witness to the truth and therefore was not a concern of His and the time for bearing witness to the truth was not yet when He was at Cana.

Everyone would have done well to understand that He, Who was speaking was not the son of the carpenter, but the Son of God, the One with the almighty power to bring into existence all things.

John 1:3 *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. [KJV]*

Nevertheless, He was not only the Son of God, but the One, Who had humbled Himself and learned to obey:

Hebrews 5:8 *Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. [NLT]*

Thus He was obedient to His mother's wish and helped the bridegroom by changing water into wine.

Hence, there is neither confusion nor any intellectual offense: rather there is the New Covenant reality of Jesus being fully God and fully man.

This reality is also evident in His famous prayer in the garden, just before going to the Cross:

Mark 14:36 *And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." [NKJV]*

As a human, He did not particularly cherish being crucified; as Son of God, He denied His own will, submitted His own will and united it with the will of the Father: He wanted the same as His Father wanted.

The coexistence of full divinity and full humanity — in the same one individual — compels us say: Jesus is — and only He can be — such a Son of the Living God, Who died for us and Who was resurrected.

Such is the One — and only One — worthy of worship and adoration.