



Water to
Wine

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

John chapter 2 begins with the 5th and final of the five consecutive days from John the Apostle's perspective of the monumental events that introduced Christ Jesus the Messiah unto John.

John would become first an Apostle and later in his life our Revelator.

As we recall the first two of John's five days were with the Baptizer at the river Jordan, while the final 3 of the 5 days recorded within John's Gospel were his first 3 days with Jesus.

Upon this third day Jesus and His new found friends attended a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

✝ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

John 2:1 NIV

Of course Galilee is Jesus home area and John chapter 2 begins on the third day John was with Jesus. During the time of Christ maidens at their wedding were permitted in celebration for the very first time to publicly uncover her face at her wedding's concluding celebration. This be unless she had any of the following two conditions by which she had to uncover her face prior to the concluding ceremony.

First if she were not a virgin.

Second if she had been defiled or violated against her will.

Non virgins and remarrying widows were not expected to keep their faces covered at such ceremonies.

If she was a widow than her remarriage would be on a Thursday where as maidens were always married on Wednesdays.

The reason why a woman's face was covered because it was forbidden for a man to be alone or even see the face of a woman who was not his wife.

At this time and place it was considered to be a disgrace to even speak to or even to acknowledge a woman on the street in public whose face was not covered.

Likewise during this time if a woman even spoke to a man who was not her husband or father with her face uncovered this was considered to be such an outrage, that it could be considered legal grounds for a divorce. As a result most women not only covered their faces but many covered their faces with two veils. It was said in Israel that a priest should not be able to recognize his own mother in public.

Now for the sake of courtship there were public dances twice a year in which maidens were allowed to show themselves in order to attract a mate. So in all of those movies and TV shows that you might have seen about Jesus, if the women in those movies did not have their faces covered in public then historically speaking the portrayal of those Jewish women at the Time of Christ were not accurate.

So during this time period it became a supposition that if a woman was seen in public with her face uncovered, she was either suspected of adultery or prostitution, or that she was indeed actually seeking a divorce using the rules of the face covering veils to her advantage.

Unfortunately for her if she gained her desired divorce in this manner, she automatically forfeited any of her claims of any monetary rights or property that were hers.

This was a very strict and harsh time especially for the women of Israel.

Now as we read verse one of John chapter 2 did you notice the mother of Jesus, Mary was there? Jesus and His Disciples had also been invited to the Wedding, but note here that the person actually invited to this Wedding was Mary the mother of Jesus. Christ as Mary's eldest son was also invited and as a courtesy the Disciples of Jesus who were present were also allowed to attend.

A Jewish wedding consisted of a marriage contract which resulted in a Betrothal.

The Betrothal could not exceed 12 months.

At the beginning of this process the Groom and his father went to the parents of the Bride and negotiated a contract. When the contract was complete, it was fully legal and binding.

Legally the couple was now considered married at the Betrothal just not living together as of yet.

In fact a formal divorce was needed for a legal separation at this point.

A legal contract set the dowry price of the Bride which included her promises of any property, monetary allowances, and any other payments of provision such as allotments for wine, clothing, or anything else that the Bride had included within her marriage agreement.

Likewise the marital contract brought mutual obligations and a festive meal for just the Bride and Grooms families concluded the Betrothal contract agreement.

After the contract was complete the Bridegroom went home to build an addition onto his father's house. When the new living space for the Betrothed couple was complete the Groom would go get his Bride while the Bride lived in anticipation of the arrival of the Groom when all was ready.

The Groom would arrive at night with his escorts to retrieve his Bride who lived in expectation of his arrival at a time in which she knew not.

A celebration ensued complete with music and wine for the adults, and with fruits and nuts for the children. This parade of the Groom and his fellows was led by torchlight with many flowers and by tradition everyone within hearing distance rose to joyfully salute the procession.

This was considered to be a religious duty to be held in high regard even more so than a funeral procession. Which also required those within hearing distance to attend.

Jewish custom holds especially of its leadership that all must stop what they were doing and join in any procession with the clapping of hands and walking along either joyfully at any wedding or in mourning with any funeral.

This is why Jewish scholars think that even the notorious Jezebel when falling to her death, the scriptures record that she was consumed by dogs.

But yet the passages confirm that her hands and feet alone remained.

It is supposed that during Jezebel's lifetime she did join in with wedding processions with the clapping of her hands and likewise by the walking of her feet during funeral marches.

So, it is deemed that the Lord preserved her hands and feet from being consumed by dogs.

As in these were the only good things that the evil Queen Jezebel ever did.

Now this Wedding procession of the Groom returning to claim his Bride is an exact description of the Rapture of the Church. The Lord time and again used these Jewish Wedding customs as a perfect example to each the people of Jesus Time and for us down through the Age of Grace that He, the Bridegroom goes to Heaven in order to prepare a place for us. We being His Bride the Church, Christ our Lord promises to us that He will return to take us into His Fathers house to be forevermore with Him.

✝ Do not let your hearts be traveled, believe in God believe also in Me, In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not, so I would have told you that I go and prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself so that where I am there you may be also.

Now picking up again in our Scripture of the Wedding in Cana;

✝ when the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, they have no wine. And Jesus said to her Woman, what concern is that of you and to Me for My hour has not yet come.

John 2:3-4 ESV

Many Biblical scholars speculate here that it was Mary the mother of Jesus who was feeling some pressure because she was actually the one invited to this wedding and as such Jesus also was included within her invitation.

However Jesus had showed up unexpectedly back within Galilee with His new found Disciples with Him and as a courtesy they too were also invited.

But naturally the wine gave out early with the addition of about half a dozen grown men who were unexpected guests- Within Jewish culture at this time it was considered to be a great disgrace and embarrassment to all parties involved if such a shortcoming occurred.

So Mary had two definite motivations to get Christ to do something about the wine.

The first being from her perspective that it was her Son and his entourage that contributed to the wine running out early. The second reason being that she as Christ mother, understood His mission and purpose and quite possibly when Jesus arrived with followers of His teachings, that Mary had decided for herself maybe it was time she could give her Son a little push in order to get His Ministry started.

As such Jesus's response to his mother comes off a little bit harsh, here in English the scriptures record: "Woman what concern is that of you and to me?" in the original Greek Christ's response is a little softer, it reads, "Lady what does this have to do with me?" in a softer tone.

Basically we can put a large theological argument into a small doctrine nutshell.

The Spiritual meaning of Jesus's reply to His mother Mary was this:

Christ acknowledges Mary as his human mother, however- He is making it clear to her at this time that as far as His life is concerned as it pertains to His Ministry and Godly doctrine, that no one not even His mother has any say over Him in Ministry matters.

Remember in Jesus Time a mother had lifelong say and sway over her sons.

Even if necessary above the wishes of his wife while the mother lived.

Daughters often married young and had children or their own so this did not apply as much for them.

Yes of course daughters were to be ever respectful of their mothers however it was the mothers sons who were expected to care for her after their father had passed.

& again in Israel women nearly always married older men in order to be better prepared to raise their children. This later in life left a lot of widows. So again mothers by custom had say and sway over their sons affairs even long after their marriage. Even the High Priests of Israel were dressed (clothed) by their mothers. It was in fact a public debate as to which mother best dressed out her son as High Priest.

Also do not forget with many widows around and most of them by today's standards were not that aged. What I'm getting at is this; motherhood as in the labor of birth, has always been dangerous.

In Jesus Time it was much more so. If a young mother was lost in childbirth the older women from each of the couples families then became great help unto the young motherless child and or children.

So once again, when Jesus said to His mother Mary "Woman, what concern is that to you, and to me?" In Christ time, the Lord Jesus unknown to us today was actually quoting to His mother a Jewish idiom.

A phrase or expression that presents a figurative non literal meaning that means: Those who heard these words understood what Jesus was saying to His mother Mary.

The Tanakh this being the totality of canonical Hebrew Scriptures as in the complete Bible actually does use this phrase as in: "What does this have to do with you and me?" As in HOW it pertains to GOD.

Jesus was in effect conveying unto His mother that He may be her son, but as for GODLY things that she has no sway or say over Him. This was meant not only to inform her as too this fact but by quoting a common phrase; "What does this have to do with me and you as to GOD?"

This of course was also a help aid unto Mary from seeing Jesus not only as her child but to now begin helping her to seeing and believing Christ as her Lord.

Not only was this to keep Mary from undue pride and culture expectations and not just for her, this lesson applied to all of Jesus human family, and all who knew Jesus before He began His Ministry, that they all too needed Him- Christ Jesus as their Lord & Savior and all Heavenly aspects were His alone.

It was also a different time within a different culture and it was common and not unusual at all for a man to call his mother woman or lady. I'm sure that we say or do many things today that would baffle or dismay others from different times and places.

Remember Jesus also made reference to His mother Mary while He was upon the cross. When Christ called Mary "woman" when Jesus as her Son was actually taking care of His mothers future well being. This of course was to be after His death and after His Resurrection & His Holy Ascension of departure.

Christ the Lord placed Mary his mother under John the Apostle's care.

This can be found within John chapter 19:25-27

John alone of the twelve Apostles was at the cross with Mary and the three other women with her. Of course this was allowed because John is a human cousin of Christ and he and his mother Salome, Mary's sister, were the only family members with Jesus's mother Mary before the cross.

Yes, this means "The sons of thunder" as Jesus called them, the sons of Zebedee & Salome, John and James, were cousins of Jesus Christ for they were born by Salome a sister of Mary.

Jesus's half brothers and sisters did not believe & accept Him until after His resurrection.

This is why Jesus entrusted John the Apostle our Revelator His cousin to care for His mother Mary. Basically the Lord entrusted a family member whom loved and believed in Him, Jesus- from the very beginning of His Ministry with keeping His mother Mary safe.

For the record; history does record Mary dwelt with John the Revelator Apostle the rest of her days. Together John & Mary each taught at Saul/Paul's first Christian Seminary in Ephesus.

To this day there are still frescos and paintings of Jesus's mother Mary, the Apostles John, and likewise the Apostle Paul, each all three teaching in Ephesus upon the remaining walls of the ruins.

Legend holds this is where Mary was buried in an unmarked grave. (she did not wish to be venerated)

Now back to our study; Jesus's concluding words of verse three go like this;

"My hour has not yet come."

Seven times for us the Gospel of John records that Jesus repeated this phrase throughout His Ministry.

The reason being for this is Daniel the prophet was given a Revelation by the Angel Gabriel whose name in Hebrew means GOD is my strength. Gabriel informed Daniel the exact day of when the Messiah would enter Jerusalem and then publicly declare Himself as the Son of GOD.

GOD born into human flesh as the Old Testament predicted and then the true Messiah would be denied and rejected as in to be cut off and have nothing. To die upon a Roman cross as Psalm 22 also predicted over 500 years before the birth of Jesus & long before Rome existed or crucifixion was even invented.

So what Jesus was referencing when He said that " His hour has not yet come" means He will have to fulfill that prophecy to the exact detail on the correct day. Remember this means that Daniel had predicted to Israel, this means the Pharisees and all those whom studied GOD'S Word and Law should have knew the exact day in which Christ the Messiah would arrive in triumph in Jerusalem. All they had to do was count by using Daniel chapter 9. Yes! The Day of Messiah was predicted.

This is Why Jesus wept outside Jerusalem before He entered the city on that correct day.

✝ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

Dr. Luke 19:41-44 NIV

Jesus’s mother Mary’s next words after Christ told her she had no say over His Ministry are recorded:

✝ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” John 2:5 ESV

Jesus’s mother by saying to the servants “Do whatever he tells you” Mary had just realized what Christ was saying to her, and now she stepped back and placed herself underneath her Son’s authority as Deity.

Mary submitted publicly and this can be hard for any parent to understand when their child has become an adult in which they must now view and accept them as mature and independent.

However in Jesus Time it had to be doubly hard for Mary because Jewish mothers never had to submit unto their sons. Not ever.

Now as the scripture passages do record after Mary had humbled herself, the Christ within Jesus responds: Standing nearby were the six stone water jars used for the Jewish rites of purification.

Again these jars were of stone most likely limestone and were not made of clay because contaminants can be absorbed into ancient clay jars even when they were baked and glazed inside.

Each jar held between 20 to 30 gallons apiece or 100 to 120 Liters for our metric friends.

Jesus instructed the wedding banquet servers to fill GOD’S purification jars with water. (verses 6-7)

What John leaves unsaid here was within this exchange there must have already been somewhat of a buzz in the air concerning Mary’s Son Jesus.

Undoubtably this was caused by John the Baptist because why would the servers already taxed emotionally and most likely frantic because they are out of wine- Why? Otherwise would they have been attentive to the words of a late random add on upon the guest list? One no doubt they felt was the cause of the shortage of wine in the first place, this tardy addition who also brought with Him 3 to 5 more tag a longs.


Other than the answer is this: A rumor, and the rumor was;

Have you heard? Can you believe this? They say that Mary’s Son is the man the Baptizer says is the Christ.

Think about it; From these passages Jesus’s mother Mary was emboldened to prod Jesus about the wine. We can likely presuppose Mary was approached or overheard that the fame of Jesus had begun.

So, those serving at the wedding without questions, comments, or grumbling, likely in anticipation- they filled those purification jars just as Jesus had instructed them to do.

Then Jesus next said to them :

✝ Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), 

the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

John 2:8-11 ESV

We cannot overstate or underestimate the significance of these jars within Judaism by the Rabbi's because of the Mishna. Which is the written record of the Jewish oral traditions.

There is as an entire book of Mishna containing 30 chapters dedicated only to washing & purification. In fact there are rules about interpreting the rules.

There are lengthy discourses just on the qualifications of the jars alone.

Now notice Jesus instructed the servants to fill the jars which technically belong to GOD with water. Right away here we have a major faux pas of Jewish oral tradition of superstition.

You see by ancient Jewish custom;

These jars were supposed to be segregated as in separated.

The first jar of purification was to be used by the Bride alone.

The second jar was to be used only by the Groom and the wedding families.

The third jar was for the honored guests, as in VIP's such as priests & scribes.

The three remaining jars were for everyone else.

What I'm getting at here is this; notice Jesus made no distinction amongst the jars.

As in between the people who would be using them.

Right away Christ treats these jars- meaning the people they represent as equals.

And of course Jesus changed the water to wine.

Make no mistake here is one of the most debated items within the scriptures.

Did Jesus make wine containing alcohol? Simply put.

The Bible says Jesus changed the water to wine- period.

In fact the person we would call the caterer of the wedding said, “It was the best wine they had that night.” The caterer is of course an expert on hospitality, food, and drink.

Also symbolically Jesus did not abuse his authority and power as Deity within this miracle by a frivolous display of changing water to wine in a manor in which we would call someone a showoff.

Also during the time of Christ the water was bad. In 1st Timothy chapter five the Apostle Paul had to remind Timothy to drink a little wine because of his stomach ailments.

The Apostle Paul was clearly telling Timothy for him it was not a sin for to drink wine for medicinal purposes. Obviously Paul understood that Timothy like many Christians who often struggle with what is proper moral Biblical behavior. As in what is or not acceptable for them as Christ believers.

For most of us it is OK to enjoy a drink or two with your dinner or on a special occasion this is not a sin. However to over indulge and lose control of yourself, especially if this is an area of weakness for you- then yes, this person knows that they should abstain from wine or alcohol.

Now think about this;

Jesus could have just as easily refilled the wine barrels, casks, or vats themselves. But he did not. The Christ in Jesus had the purification jars which technically belonged to His Heavenly Father Jehovah refilled with water.

Our Lord then replaced the water, GOD'S water, with something new- with something better.

It was by Christ Messiah a symbolic gesture of Him fulfilling the Law of Moses and through Him ushering in- the Age of Grace. Within the example of new wine replacing the water in GOD'S jars.

In fact later within the Gospels Jesus refers to Himself and His Apostles as new wine as in the new covenant of the New Testament which is of course the completion of the Old Testament.

Now for the record;

The Bible makes it clear that it's not a sin to drink wine.

However it certainly is a sin to get drunk on wine or alcohol or chemicals or to depend upon anything or anyone such as athletes or entertainers that we need or use, to deliver us from facing life. This be apart from GOD through Jesus His Christ.

Get that?

Basically anything or anyone that we define as our help meet to get us through our life apart from Christ IS a Sin. We are to depend upon the Lord. Heavenly Father alone through Jesus our Christ.

Now as too getting drunk or high when we lose control of ourselves when we are impeded intellectually and emotionally this is when we make a lot of our infractions against the Lord.

To totally crowd out all of our sorrows, fears, regrets, or disappointments in drink, substances, food, physical pleasures, or even using distractions of music, sports, and entertainment- including today many obsess themselves with gaming or social media to the point of totally removing the daily routine of our lives to avoid the minutiae of day to day living my friends this is a sin.

Even if some of our life's moments seem mundane to us, it is still a sin to engage in anything to the point of excess in which nothing else matters to us or even worse for it to be all that we look forward to- as in living for. This hampers not just ourselves but other people in our lives.

Including our family relationships, our expected commitments, our employment, & Jehovah GOD.

Simply put the cure for all of this is; Get a life in Christ.

Remember muse means to think and amuse as in amusement means not to think.

When we amuse or abuse ourselves to remember or forget, when we do not to turn to Christ this is Sin. We have to leave room in our lives to let GOD in.

Jesus did not have a problem with wine it is we, those who abuse wine & other distractions who do.

So with that issue discussed lets finish up where we left off by finishing our Scripture of study.

Jesus did this- the changing of water to wine, the first of His miraculous signs in Cana of Galilee. This revealed His glory and the Disciples believed in Him.

In fact you might be surprised to learn John only records 7 of these Divine miracles within his Gospel. & yet John never fails to impress.

No doubt their were Priests or Pharisees as in officials in attendance at this same wedding feast. As such it should be noted here that no disclaimer or denial has ever been submitted against the scriptures for the recording of this miracle, that Jesus had changed the water to wine.

This miracle could not be denied. Not even by Jesus enemies even long after the fact.

There were just to many there who had seen it and had sampled the wine for themselves.

& remember John the Apostle makes it clear that he & the other Disciples present, were impressed and this affirmed their Faith in belief in Jesus as the Great I AM, born as the human Son of man.