

## A Taste of Glory

### *Water into Wine*

- Today, w2w. When child in VBS, watched teacher turn w2w. Amazed; how!? Then got little older, taught VBS, realized what done: 2 drinking glasses, 1 water, 1 empty (seemed); held toward base, so not see that in empty, red Kool-Aid mix at bottom. Pour; voilà: w2w! Even let us have taste of “wine”; memorable little object lesson to illust how Jesus once turned w2w.
- But, of course, that’s not what Jesus did at wedding in Cana. No, that day Jesus perf powerful miracle – of same caliber as feeding 1000s, walking water, driving demons, raising dead. But comp to those other miracles (more public, more people saw them happen), this miracle went relatively unnoticed. Most people at wedding had no idea what happened. So might ask, “Jesus, for very 1<sup>st</sup> miracle, why do something so spectacular-less; why not wow the crowds; why w2w?” Here’s why: **vs. 11**. They believed, bec through this miracle Jesus not only gave them taste wine; but through this miracle he also gave them (and gives us) taste of his glory.

### *A Gentle Rebuke*

- This wedding at Cana takes place right at very beg of Jesus’ min. Already baptized by JB (saw last week); only called a few discs; still relatively unknown. And gets invited to this wedding; maybe friend of family; obviously mother there. In fact, by the way Mary reacts to wine shortage, almost seems like she helping family keep reception running smoothly. Back then, wedding receptions lasted for days. So to be running out wine already was socially embarrassing.
- Anyway, Mary wants help situation; so **vs. 3**; which implies: “Jesus, you should do something to fix problem.” Now remem: she knows her son is also Son of God, Savior of world. So Mary figured, “If he’s a Savior, now’s good time for him do some saving! Now’s time for him show off his full power, glory.” So she implies, “Jesus, they’re out of wine, and you should do something to fix problem.”
- Now, is anything wrong with coming to Jesus, asking him to fix our problems? Certainly not! Jesus later would say: ask, seek, knock (Mt 7:7). Surely Lord wants us to call on him day trouble; he will deliver; we honor (Ps 50:15). But when problems arise in our lives, even as we pray, we must also remember to trust – his plan, his timing – bec Lord’s plan/timing are always best. Jesus knows what he’s doing; doesn’t need our advice.
- And Mary needed to learn that; listen how Jesus responds: “**Woman**” (not disrespectful; more like “Ma’am;” polite but formal), **vs. 4**. Jesus knew what Mary implying. So says, “Ma’am, I know what I’m doing; don’t need your advice. I respect you bec you’re my mother; but you need to trust me bec I’m your God. And my plan, my timing for that plan, are diff from your plan/timing. This wine shortage problem you’re all concerned about – this taste of trouble you’re experiencing – you need trust me through it.” And so with gentle rebuke, Jesus teaches Mary to trust him.
- Sometimes we need Jesus to rebuke us when we fail to trust him. To be sure: we all have plenty of complicated problems: in our lives, families, church – problems demand our attention. And as we work hard to find solutions to our own tastes of trouble, we also ask God to help us, fix problems, make things right – which very appropriate; God wants us pray to him. But our prayers take left-hand turn when we stop trusting God’s plan/timing. I’m sure everyone us here can look in own life, come up with any number complic, frustr problems – much greater than wine shortage. But no matter how problematic the issues in our lives become, we must always remem: Jesus knows what doing; doesn’t need our advice; has plan, timing for that plan; his plan/timing are always best. He’s in control.

### *His Full Glory*

- And Jesus reminds us of that when says, **vs. 4 (yet)**. “See, Ma’am, I do have a plan. And a time is coming when you’re going see that plan; and I’ll reveal my full glory to world.” That time/hour took

place between MT and Easter Sun, when God's eternal plan to save world from sin would culminate in passion, death, res of JC. On MT Jesus: "**Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him**" (Jn 13:31); and later, "**Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you**" (Jn 17:1). See, it's not that Jesus didn't want people see his glory at wedding; it's just that his plan/timing was to reveal his full glory through cross, when he'd die on cross. At cross, Jesus shed his blood for sins of mankind. At cross, God fulfilled his promise of salvation, made all way back in Garden Eden. At cross, and 3 days later at empty tomb, our crucified/risen Savior JC revealed to world his full glory.

### *A Taste of Glory*

- But today, at wedding in Cana, we get just taste of that glory. **Vs. 6**; big, tall water jars. **Vs. 7-8a**. Somewhere in between Jesus changed ~150 gal regular drinking water into fermented grape wine! And this no cute Kool-Aid trick; emcee said this was good, quality wine. This was miracle. And like said earlier, very few people even knew it had taken place. Servants who drew water knew; Mary; discs. But guests didn't know; neither did emcee. So in quiet, unassuming way, while the people got their taste of wine, we get a taste of Jesus' glory.
- After all, **vs. 11a** (not his full glory; just a taste); **vs. 11b**. That's why Jesus turned the w2w: so that his discs back then, and his discs today, would believe in him, trust him. That's why in season of Epiph, Jesus gives us other tastes of his glory: like at his baptism (see dove, hear Father); and at transfig (another taste of his glory). Jesus wants us to believe in him; and trust him. And that's easy to do when things in life are going well. But when complicated, frustrating problems arise in our lives (whether it's a wine shortage or worse), it's tastes of glory like these that Jesus uses to strengthen our faith, so that we do trust in him, his plan, his timing. Jesus will make everything work out for our good; he will fix our problems in ways he knows are best. He already fixed our greatest problem at the cross, where he revealed his full glory. And so now, we put our full trust in Jesus, as today, through a taste of wine, he also gives us a taste of his glory.

### **John 2:1-11**

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,<sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

<sup>4</sup> "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so,<sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside<sup>10</sup> and 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."

<sup>11</sup> What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.