



The Wedding at Cana

Story Elements

- **Text:** John 2:1-11
- **Setting:** circa 26 AD in Cana of Galilee
- **Characters:** God, Jesus, Mary, and several disciples
- **Plot:** Jesus performs his first public miracle by turning water into wine.
- **Key word(s):** “*mine _____ is not yet come*” – This phrase holds the key to understanding Jesus’ seeming disinclination to his mother’s request juxtaposed to his marvelous provision for the feast’s deficient wine supply.
- **Climax:** *John 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.* This verse describes that moment just before the reader would learn of the miracle, and it leaves us wondering what Jesus will do – especially in light of his previous comments which seem to indicate that Jesus preferred to do nothing at all about the lack of wine.

The Mother’s Request

1. (vv 1-2) This story follows the story of Jesus calling his first disciples, so we should understand that the disciples that attended the wedding feast were the _____ mentioned in the previous chapter.

OBSERVATION → The contrast between John the Baptist and Jesus the Christ is herein vividly portrayed. John came neither eating nor drinking, but Jesus came feasting and celebrating (cf. Matt. 11:18, 19).

APPLICATION → Matthew Henry, commenting on this passage, reminds us that, “It is the wisdom of the prudent to study how to *improve* conversation rather than how to _____ it.”¹ That is, sometimes it’s good to decline social get-togethers, but it is the mark of godly wisdom to make a conversation edifying rather than simply avoiding it.

2. The fact that the wedding was located in Galilee, and that Jesus’ mother Mary was there, suggests that the wedding was a close friend or relation. Jesus disciples “were bidden, on his account; and they seem to be these, Andrew, and the other disciple, that followed Jesus, and Simon Peter, and Philip, and Nathanael, who was of this place; and accordingly they all went to it. Christ, and his five disciples, made six of the _____, which were always necessary to be present at, the benediction of bridegrooms.”²
3. (v 3) Wedding feasts in the Bible would often last up to a week and could be very expensive. The fact that Mary was concerned for the lack of wine suggests that she may have been related to the _____ (who would’ve been financially responsible for the feast). To run out of wine during a feast would’ve been extremely embarrassing.

The Messiah’s Response

4. (vv 4-5) Sympathizing with the bride and groom in what would certainly be embarrassment over the lack of wine, Mary brings it to Jesus’ attention. The Savior’s response sounds brisk at first reading, but notice:
 - (a) “*Woman*” - To use such language for your mother in our society is considered rude, but in Jesus’ time it was a common term of courteous _____ (John 19:26; 20:15).

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1924.

² John Gill, *Exposition of the Bible*, <https://johnhill.thekingsbible.com/CommentaryVerse/43/2/2>

- “But the fundamental mistake in what she attempted is just this, that she spake as His Mother, and placed that maternal relationship in connection with His Work. And therefore it was that as, on the first misunderstanding in the Temple, He had said; ‘Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?’ so now: ‘Woman, what have I to do with thee?’”³ **That is, Jesus is showing his beloved mother that his mission as Messiah is purely connected to his Father’s will, not his mother’s wishes.** In this case, when Jesus says “mine hour is not yet come,” he is seeking to restrain his _____ from snowballing before it’s time.

- ## The Miracle's Result

- [illegible]

³ Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*.