

John 2:1-11

Epiphany 2; January 15, 2016

### Who Is This Jesus Who Does Miraculous Things?

First impressions matter. There are many different studies that have been done on that topic. How long does it take for someone to have a first impression about you? Research on this question varies. Some believe it takes 30 seconds to form a first impression. Others believe it takes 2-3 seconds. There was even a study done by Princeton psychologists that found it takes only a tenth of a second to form an impression of somebody. There are all kinds of factors that will affect that first impression. How you dress; how much confidence that you express; your body language – looking into someone’s eyes, the type of handshake you use, even the position of your feet (whether pointing toward the other person or a direction that they might face as you walk away), all are part of that first impression. Once that first impression is made, it is really hard to change it. Unfortunately, people may not even give you a second chance to change it.

If you were a guest at the wedding at Cana, what would be your first impression of Jesus and his first miracle? If Jesus wanted to make a bigger “splash” on the religious scene in Israel, we would almost expect that he would do something that would catch the eye of people. Yet, look at it. It was no big show. There was no turning on or off the sun. No mountains moved from here to there. In a small town, an unnamed couple gets married, and they run out of wine. Jesus then will supply what they needed by changing water into wine. Other than Mary, the servants and the disciples, no one else seems to know what had just happened. John says about the disciples: *“His disciples put their faith in him.”* The guests, the master of the banquet and even the bride and groom didn’t see Jesus’ miracle. John tells us that the master of the banquet appears to have no idea as to what had just happened: **“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.”** Therefore, let us take a look at this first miracle of Jesus by asking the question: ***“Who is this Jesus who does miraculous things?”***

Whose wedding are the people in our text celebrating? We don’t know. John begins: **“On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there.”** Was Mary an invited guest or was she the helper and planner in the wedding celebration? John isn’t clear. Jesus and his disciples were invited guests. Why? Did they know this un-named couple? We don’t know that either. All we know that on the third day of the typical week-long celebration, they ran out of wine.

Now what? Mary knows who Jesus is. She thinks: *“He can help us.”* Jesus had already been identified as the Son of God to Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon and Ana, his disciples. John the Baptist had identified Jesus as the **“Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world & this is the Son of God.”** How many other people knew who Jesus truly was? We can’t be sure. Perhaps Mary had been waiting for the day to come, when Jesus could show others who he truly was. She goes to the one person she knows that would be able to help her – her son, Jesus. She comes with a simple request in the form of a statement. **“They have no more wine.”** She isn’t asking Jesus to send his disciples out to pick up more wine and the local grocery store. She is looking for Jesus to do a miracle.

It’s not surprising that Mary would go to Jesus. What appears to be surprising is Jesus’ reaction to her question. **“Dear woman, why do you involve me?”** His words sound harsh and disrespected. That was not Jesus’ intent. Until this moment, he was her son. But now the hat is going to change. He was also her Savior. As that Savior, he is saying: *What I do now, is not your business. It is mine.* He continues on to her: **“My time has not yet come.”**

Mary caught it – two simple words: **“not yet.”** Those words made all the difference in the world. He didn’t say *yes*; he didn’t say *no*; he said that he would when the time was right. Jesus is saying to her, *“don’t worry, I have this all under control.”* So, she says to the servants: **“Do whatever he tells you.”** When we often use that word **whatever**, we think of it in a way that sounds like *“I don’t care, whatever.”* That isn’t what Mary is saying. *Ok. I get it. Listen he is about to do something miraculous. As strange as it sounds, do whatever he tells you.*

Jesus wasn't going to capture the headlines of the "*Galilean News*." He was going to make "*the breaking news*." He was beginning his ministry on earth. His miracles were just simply signs that would point people to the greatest miracle that he was coming to accomplish – the salvation of mankind. He would be accomplishing the miracle of taking hearts that were enemies of God and turn them into ones who would trust His Word.

Jesus continues to miracles today. He has brought you to trust in him as your Savior. He has promised to protect and help you through all the challenges you may face. He has forgiven your sin. Yet, Jesus doesn't only take care of the "big" things in our lives. He also helps us through all the little unimportant things in our lives. He doesn't do all this things in a half-hearted way. Jesus didn't just make wine to "get by" during the rest of the week of the wedding celebration. He gives the best. God can only give us the best.

This week everyone was fascinated with the question: *What would you do with 1.5 billion dollars in Powerball jackpot?* What would you do with it? What could you do with it? All who played had just purchased a chance. A maybe. You and I have so much more in the *certainty* of this Jesus.

Some may look at this first miracle of Jesus and think: *Ok. That was nice, but it wasn't all that spectacular.* Yet, that miracle says about Jesus – this is God's Son. Trust Him. May you and I join with the disciples in saying: **"He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him."** Amen.