

## **SERMON: THE SERVANTS' BIG SECRET**

### **JOHN 2:1-11**

**(1) And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: (2) And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. (3) And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto Him, They have no wine. (4) Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come. (5) His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it. (6) And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. (7) Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. (8) And He saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. (9) When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom. (10) And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. (11) This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him.**

### **Introduction**

The wedding wine ran out before the reception was over. Jesus and His mother, Mary, were among the guests. Mary informed Jesus about the problem. Evidently, she had a special relationship with some of the members of the wedding party. Jesus' first response was one of non-involvement. It was not His party; it was not His house. He did not want to intervene because He did not want to prematurely disclose His messiahship. A mother knows her children. Mary knew He would find a way to solve the problem. She said nothing further to Jesus, but rather spoke to the servants and said, "Whatever He says, do it." They detected her spiritual authority and maternal influence and took action. They followed Jesus' directions and filled six huge water pots to the brim. This took a lot of manual labor; remember they had no running water and the well could have been a great distance from the venue. After the water pots were filled, Jesus told the servants to dip from the pots and take it to the master of ceremony. They did. The master of ceremony tasted it, thought it was excellent, but had no idea from whence it came. He called the bridegroom aside and gave him credit for the superb wine. The

bridegroom also did not know from whence it came. Only the servants knew the whole story and that a miracle had been performed. This narrative has many characters, including our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; for this sermon, let us concentrate on the actions and attitudes of the servants. There is much we can learn from their meritorious behavior.

### **Exposition**

#### **1. They Complied With a Valid Request**

(They Listened To Mary and To Jesus)

#### **2. They Did the Hard Work**

(They Delivered at Least 120 Gallons of Water)

#### **3. They Knew It Was Not About Themselves**

(They Saved the Day for the Wedding Party)

#### **4. They Knew What Others Did Not Know**

(They Were Aware Jesus Had Wrought a Miracle)

#### **5. They Used Wisdom and Kept A Sanctified Secret Until It Was Time to Disclose It**

(They Knew the Importance of Timing)

#### **6. They Made Others Look Good**

(Others Received the Accolades)

(Jesus Will Make Us Look Good Before The Father-2<sup>ND</sup> Corinthians 5:21)

### **Closing Statements**

Chemically, water is very simple. There are only three atoms in each molecule: two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. Water is simple, yet basic to life. The servants were obedient and brought water, the universal solvent, to Jesus and He turned it into something far greater. To use business terms Jesus “added value.” As servants of God and thereby servants of our brothers and sisters, when we bring our “simple” gifts to Jesus He will add value and we will be a great blessing to many. The Suffering Servant is willing to bless our water-whatever that might be- and our work. Give it to Jesus and watch Him work a miracle. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

**End Notes.**

1. Over the centuries, there have been many theological debates as to whether the wine was fermented or not. First, let's understand the language. In Koine' Greek, in which the New Testament was written, there are only three words for potable libations: water, oil, and wine. Therefore, unfermented grape juice was also called wine. The answer is simple: we don't know whether it was fermented or not. However, when we get to heaven where we can find the answer, it will not matter-not at all. Many churches, including Antioch-Lithonia, do not use fermented wine during Holy Communion so as not to place a stumbling block in the path of recovering alcoholics. We believe Communion should be a time of healing and a time to gain strength and encouragement and should not be a time to put one's spiritual and physical progress in jeopardy. I also admonish Christians, especially leaders, that the Bible teaches us to lay aside sin and the "weights" that can easily slow us down. Certain behaviors may not be a sin, but can be a weight to our ministry and to our witness. Please read Hebrews 12:1.

2. Some of these thoughts came from a devotional at a Zoom seminar delivered by Dr. Terry W. York on October 14, 2020. He is a professor at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary, at Waco, Texas. One of his academic specialties is the Theology of Worship. He is awesome! I mean "awesome!"

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