

A FATHER'S PLAN AND A MOTHER'S APPEAL

John 2:1-12 / "Yeshua" §§29-30
Next Week: John 2:13-25 / §§31-32

"If mom says no, I'll go ask dad" This timeless phrase has been used and practiced by children throughout the ages! No doubt many of us have either been on the using or receiving end. What kids seem to understand at such an early age, is that sometimes, mom and dad have a different plan for what they want their kids to do. We will see this play out in a very unique and interesting way in our bible passage today. We will see that Mary, the mother of Jesus, has a specific appeal for Jesus, part of which went against Jesus' Father's plan for Him. Jesus was in a somewhat difficult spot but managed to satisfy both His Father's plan and Mother's appeal in the perfect way.

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
	→ A Father's Plan and A Mother's Appeal
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King:
Part 6.	The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King:
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the

THE SCENE AND SITUATION (JOHN 2:1-3A)

John continues his pattern of marking out the first week of Jesus' ministry through the progression of "days" (1:29, 35, 43). On the 6th day of Jesus ministry there was a wedding at Cana. Jesus and disciple were invited and they joined in the festivities. Not unlike today, wedding celebrations at that time were a huge event, unlike today however, their parties would typically last an entire week, and the guests would take the whole week off work to join in the celebration. The hosts would pride themselves in having an over-abundance of food and drink available. But what we see at this wedding, is that something terrible has just taken place. The wine has run out.

We might be tempted to simply overlook this issue as not being of great importance. However, the Jewish culture was an "Honor - Shame" culture, and a wedding was a place of great honor for the whole family and community. To run out of wine would bring incredible shame to the family and most of all to the bride and groom. Their wedding celebration would have been remembered by all as a shameful event where the host family hadn't provided for their guests. Imagine if you ran out of food at your wedding with 8 tables full of people remaining. That feeling you would have, would only scratch the surface of the shame this family was about to face.

A MOTHER'S APPEAL (JOHN 2:3B)

It would seem to be that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was in some way part of the management team for this wedding. She was aware that the wine had run out and that this joyous celebration was headed to a horrific ending and so she came to Jesus with a seemingly innocent and simple statement of fact "They have no wine", but a statement that included a two fold appeal.

Mother's have a way of packing numerous ideas and request into a very few words, and that is what we see here in Mary's words to Jesus. She was his mother and knew him better than anyone on earth. She knew that he was the messiah, she knew that he was beginning his ministry and gathering a following, she knew a time would come for him to publicly declare himself to be the messiah, and she seems to have know that he was able to do the miraculous, and that when he declared himself to be the messiah, it would be coupled with a public miraculous sign to validate his messianic ministry. So if we were to unpack her four words, it seems to be something like this "Jesus, there is a need for you to do a miracle and rescue this wedding from shame. So use this moment to publicly reveal who you are." We can have some level of confidence that this is what she is asking by looking at how Jesus responded to these seemingly docile words.

JESUS' RESPONSE (JOHN 2:4-8)

In Jesus' response we find the keys to unlock a fuller understanding of what Mary seemed to be requesting. But first a note on our English translations of "Woman..." as it seems like Jesus was being rather cold and harsh toward his mother. That is not what the text is trying to communicate however through the use of "Woman". Jesus used the same term in a similar way in John 19:26-27. Jesus did seem to use it to remind Mary that he was no longer under her authority, but there is certainly no hostility here. Simply put, Jesus was no longer a child who needed to obey his mother, but rather he was an adult who needed to honor his mother, which we will clearly see him do.

The real interpretive challenge in this entire passage lies in Jesus' statement "My hour has not yet come". Here is where we begin to understand that Mary was doing more than simply asking Jesus to fix the wine problem. Though that was certainly part of her request, in Jesus' response we can see that she seemed to have been encouraging him to publicly make himself known through performing a miracle. In Mary's mind, this was a perfect day for Jesus to publicly present himself as the Messiah. But that day was not under Mary's control, rather it was a day set by Jesus' true Father, and Jesus would obey his Father. His "hour" would come, but it was not that day.

Though her initial plan for Jesus was thwarted by a higher authority, she had full confidence in the character of Jesus to see and respond to this crisis in a miraculous way. We see in Mary's comment to the servants that she had understood Jesus' reply, and turned the authority over to Jesus, while still expressing complete faith that Jesus would indeed provide.

THE RESULTS (JOHN 2:9-12)

How the miracle is accomplished is a total mystery. This "sign" is unlike the rest of the miracles Jesus will do in his lifetime. All the other miracles are used to validate his words and claims, but here the miracle is used to honor his mother and mercifully help this family avoid a shameful end to their most wonderful day. Jesus turned the event totally around and "manifested his glory" in as quiet a way as possible. The result being that only his mother, the servants and his disciples knew what had happened, and his disciples increased their belief in who this Messiah was and what He was able to do.

Grace Family Needs, News and Notes

Join the knitting and crocheting team as they make hats for

Operation Christmas Child and Voice of the Martyrs

Contact Pollyanna @ 760-789-4926

Women's Night Out! June 29th, 5-8pm @ 1420 Hanson Lane

Join us for a wonderful time of fun and fellowship! We will be making macrame plant hangers and succulent planters. Please bring an appetizer to share and \$10 if you want to make a planter.

Sign up at the Women's Ministry Kiosk on the patio today!

Contact Billie @ billie@gccramona.com with any questions.

RSVP For 4th of July Party & Register Kids For VBS

See Cathy Nelson on the Patio