



## STUDY #5

### The First Sign

#### John 2:1-12 (ESV)—

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

<sup>6</sup>Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup>This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

<sup>12</sup>After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

#### Key words:

“**On the third day**” (v. 1)—3 days after the call of Philip & Nathaneal (vs. 43-51) and about a week after the Jewish leaders questioned John the Baptist (vs. 19-28)

“**Wedding**” (v.1)— “a major social event...that could last as long as a week”

“**Wine**” (v. 3)—wine was the staple drink in the ancient Near East. “**ran out**”—nothing could have been more devastating at an eastern wedding. It was catastrophic and could have stigmatized the couple and their families for the rest of their lives. It could have even opened up the grooms’ family (the ones responsible for the wedding celebration) to be taken to court.

“**Mother of Jesus**” (v. 1, 3, 12)— John never refers to Mary by name. Since she is aware of the situation (the running out of wine), it appears she had some responsibility for helping at the wedding.

“**Woman**” (v. 4)— polite, but not intimate form of address, much like, “Ma’am.”

“**what does this have to do with me**” (v. 4)—in original text it is an idiomatic/cultural expression literally saying “what to me to you?” It has the effect of distancing the two persons.

“**My hour**” (v. 4)— refers to the time of his death and glorification. Mary wanted Him to perform a miracle, to reveal Himself fully, but He made it clear that He would act according to His Father’s timetable and this wasn’t **the hour** for His **full glory** to be manifested. He did, however, choose to display His divine power and preview His glory to come.

“**Water jars...for rites of purification**” (v. 6)— each held at least 10-30 gallons of water and were used to wash hands and the utensils used in serving the guests.

“**Master of the feast**” (v. 8)—master of ceremonies (i.e. the MC)

“**Signs**” (v.11)—that by which a person or thing is distinguished from others and is known. It emphasizes the value or significance of the might work.

“**manifested his glory**”(v. 11)— he put his deity on display.

#### Related Passages

Mark 3:31-35—<sup>31</sup>And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup>And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” <sup>33</sup>And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

John 20:30-31—<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

### Discussion Questions

\*1. Let's observe the setting...

What occasion was taking place? (v. 1) \_\_\_\_\_

When was this wedding? (v. 1) \_\_\_\_\_

Where was this wedding? (v. 1) \_\_\_\_\_

Who were the guests? (vs. 1 & 2) \_\_\_\_\_

What was the problem? (v. 3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the solution? (vs. 6-10) \_\_\_\_\_

What was the impact on the disciples? (v. 11) \_\_\_\_\_

Now that we have observed the setting, let's dig a little deeper...

2. How does this passage differ from what we have seen thus far in John? (O) Read v. 11. What does "sign" mean? (I) What purpose did signs serve in Jesus' public ministry? (I) What is the significance of this sign? (O) Though we aren't eye-witnesses to His signs we have the opportunity to read about them from John's account. What impact in our own thinking and lives do these signs have? (A)

\*3. Jesus' signs always met a genuine need—sight for the blind, healing for the leper, hearing for the deaf, food for the 5,000, etc. How did this sign meet a need? (O/I) What does this communicate about Jesus? (I) How can this encourage your heart? (A)

\*4. This is the first of Jesus' signs, the start of His public ministry, the beginning of Him "manifesting His glory," the beginning of His journey to the cross... it is also the beginning of a change in His familial relationships. Read vs. 3-5.

How did Jesus become aware of the situation? (O)

Why do you think Mary went to Jesus? (I)

Had He done any miracles (at least publically) up to this point? (O)

In your own words, paraphrase Jesus' response.

What was the purpose of Him addressing "his mother" the way He did? See also Mark 3:31-35

How does that inform us on how we ought to view Mary? (A)

What did Jesus mean by, "My hour has not yet come"? (I)

How did Mary respond to Jesus? (O)

What does her response convey? (I)

5. Keeping in mind John's purpose: "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31), how do the verses that you just studied impact your understanding of who Jesus Christ is and what He did? (A)

## PRE-STUDY #6

### The Loyal Son

#### John 2:13-22 (ESV)—

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

<sup>18</sup>So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple,<sup>[a]</sup> and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken."

#### Key Words:

**"Passover"** (v. 14)—this annual celebration commemorated Israel's deliverance from bondage in Egypt—when the Lord killed, by His angel of death, the first-born of the Egyptians, but **passed over** the houses of the Israelites who had lambs blood over their doorposts (Ex. 12:23-27). In Jesus' time, it is estimated that a million Jews would travel to Jerusalem, offer a lamb as a sacrifice between 3-6pm, and eat a special Passover meal. This is the first of three Passovers in Jesus' ministry and the kick off to his public ministry.

**"temple"** (v. 14) —The temple in Jerusalem, the heart of Jewish religion.

**"those selling..."** (v. 14)—vendors would sell animals (for sacrifice) to those who traveled to

Jerusalem from distant lands, but at very high prices.

**"money-changers"** (v. 14)—every Jewish male >20 had to pay an annual temple tax using Jewish or Tyrian coins. These money changers charged an exorbitant fee for their services.

**"My Father's house"** (v. 16)—the temple was the place of worship, which signified God's presence. As the Son of God, He was acting as a loyal Son—purging His Father's house of impure worship.

**"zeal.."** (v. 17)—Psalm 69:9. His righteous indignation stemmed from an absolute commitment to God's holiness.

**"what sign"**(v. 18)—challenge to His authority.

#### Related Passages:

Psalm 51:16-17, Matthew 12:38-40

#### Study Questions:

Q: Describe how the temple had become a "house of trade." (O) Why was this wrong? (I)

Q: What is the significance of Jesus calling the temple, "My Father's house"? (I) How is that a motivator for His actions?

Q: Knowing that Jesus is referring to His body when He says "temple," what sign is He predicting in His response to the Jews? (v. 19)

\*Key word explanations are from MacArthur or Phillip's commentaries