# Lesson 3 [Chapter 2] "The wedding at Cana"

## Remember:

John Chapter 1 introduces Jesus as the divine "Word" (Logos) who existed with God and created all things, He took flesh and became God incarnate and lived among humanity, bringing grace and truth. It introduces John the Baptist, who identifies Jesus as the "Lamb of God," baptizes Him, and sees the Spirit descend. The chapter concludes with Jesus calling His first disciples, including Andrew, Peter (Cephas), Philip, and Nathaniel, establishing His identity as the Messiah and Son of God.

## Lesson Goal:

To learn that obedience to Jesus ("Do whatever He tells you") positions individuals for miracles and spiritual change, even in small, seemingly insignificant tasks.

## Lesson Opener:

TASTE TEST

Have a selection of branded and unbranded foods and drinks. Be sure to check for allergies. Place the items onto labelled plates or cups without anyone else seeing. For example: Branded cola in cup A – Unbranded cola in cup B. Make a note of which is which.

During the activity, players should taste the items and guess which is the branded item and mark which they prefer.

Talk about how the wine Jesus made from the water was the best wine. It was brand name.

## Lesson Body:

### Water Turned to Wine 2:1-12

From Chapter 2-12, Christ began His public service.

Some Scholars called these Chapters "the Book of Miracles" as they proclaim His Divinity.

In Chapter One, St. John the Evangelist introduces the first disciples. Now, in Chapter two, he presents the first miracle, which is the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee.

St Mary probably was not only one of the guests but one of the family. This would explain why she realized that they had run out of wine. The guest would not have known that, only those hosting the wedding would be concerned.

When the Lord Jesus Christ is invited through prayer, He comes and brings His saints (disciples) with Him. This transforms the wedding into a sanctified Church, and He generously blesses the newlywed couple and the invitees.

How did St Mary know that Jesus would perform a miracle if she has never seen Him do one before?

Although the Lord Jesus Christ had not made any miracle publicly so far, yet St. Mary knew of His divine power, righteousness, and gentleness. She was certain He would do something and step in to fulfill all the needs of the wedding.

“They have no wine” The way St. Mary acted reveals the motherhood of a believer and the concern to respond to the needs of others rather than one’s own needs. A believer turns first to the Source to receive abundantly and in greater measure than from any other. Moreover, the request is made in a spirit of humbleness as a person presents the situation without offering the solution to God and as though claiming to be more knowledgeable or more loving to others than the almighty Lord. She didn’t tell Him what to do. She knows He will take care of the problem His own way.

Certainly, it is not a kind of disrespect, but, on the contrary, favor, honor, affability, tenderness, and concern. It is like ma’am nowadays.

In the cultural context of the time, addressing someone as "woman" was not disrespectful. It was a common and polite form of address, similar to "ma'am" today. Jesus uses this term elsewhere, such as when speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:21) and to Mary Magdalene after His resurrection (John 20:15). This indicates a respectful yet formal tone.

He Lord did not say, “ O mother” but rather “ O woman.”, Jesus is not denying Mary's motherhood; He is showing that His divine mission cannot be governed by human relationships or expectations.

Why did He say: “ My hour has not yet come” yet He did do a miracle at that same time?

He wished to clarify to her that the time to publicly enact miracles before the crowds had not yet come even though His work is continuous. He performed the miracle so quietly after the servants brought the water pots to Him that the master of the feast and the bridegroom did not get to know. The servants were the only ones who knew about it.

Verse 5: His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

She sensed some signs of acknowledgement, so she asked the servants to obey the instructions of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Evangelist uses the Greek word ‘ diaconis’ to reveal that they are the servants fulfilling the divine mysteries and serve His people. our Church uses the term ‘diaconin’ for the deacons who serve at the altar.

Being confident in the love of the Lord to serve, she was sure that He would definitely act and satisfy every shortage. The Holy Virgin asked the servants to turn to Him and obey Him. This is the role of holy Saint Mary and all the saints: to draw our attention to our Lord and obey Him completely ➔ The Intercessions of the saints

St. John Chrysostom finds that St. Mary gives us a practical lesson in perseverance through her act. For in spite of the Lord’s response to her, she did not stop working, called the servants, and asked them to obey Him.

These six water pots were used for purification. Obeying Jesus, the servants filled the water pots to the brim.

Couldn’t Jesus just fill the pots with water?

The One who transformed the water into wine, and Who sends rain could fill the water pots with water and then transform them into wine. However, due to His love for mankind, He does not disregard our participation in His work. Since we are capable of filling the water pots, we need to do our best while He completes what is impossible for us to achieve. In the same way, and in many tasks, He grants us the honor of working with Him and for His Kingdom that lies within us.

The Lord could have created wine from nothing, yet He transformed the water into wine to stress that He did not come to ignore or abolish the Law. Rather He came to perfect it. Besides, He intended that the servants who brought the wine and the guests who drank of it to become themselves witnesses to the actual miracle and testify that it was not mere fantasy.

The Lord did not just transform the water into wine, but He also turned it into a wine of supreme quality.

What does the Evangelist mean when he uses the expression ‘His brothers’?

St. Augustine explains that it would include all those who have blood ties with St. Mary and therefore considered His brothers.



**Jesus Cleanses the Temple 2: 13-22**

This is the first Passover that occurs after the Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ. The second is mentioned in John 6:4; the third falls on the day the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified in John 11:55.
Many scholars believe that the Lord purified the temple on two occasions: once during the first Passover which took place at the beginning of His service and as it is mentioned in St. John's Gospel; and again, during the last Passover which was at the time of the Lord's crucifixion (Matt 21:12; Mk 11:15;Lk 19:45). John used this opportunity to reaffirm his testimony about the Lord.

He drove the merchants and the animals out of the temple courts and overturned the tables of the moneychangers. He came not to judge but to purify and sanctify. He came to mend the corrupt. In His eyes, one soul is more precious than all these animals and gold and money.

Verse 6: And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

The Lord went up to Jerusalem in order to purify His Father's temple which had become a house of trade.

The disciples began to comprehend what was behind the acts of the Lord as they began to remember what is written in the Holy Book. Indeed, within the Word of God every word explains the other and clarifies it.

Now they remembered Psalm 69:9. The zeal for the house of the Father- that is the Church- burned in the heart of the Lord for He loved Her and delivered Himself for Her sake. He did so to grant Her eternal life and fellowship in His glory.

When the Lord chased the sellers and purified the Temple, He did so with such authority that the leaders could not display any resistance or opposition to Him before the public. They needed to underline their great respect and concern towards the Temple, as well as everything that happened there. So instead of admitting the corruption that had taken place because of the of trade transactions carried on within its walls, they asked Him:

“What sign do you show to us, since You do these things?” Moreover, they were really hurt as they would lose their dishonest money as a result. By asking this question, they therefore hoped to prevent Him from interfering with their business.

He asked them to destroy the temple of His Body, indicating that they would lift Him up on the Cross; whereas they understood that He was speaking about the temple made of stone. This saying has been fulfilled by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection on the third day.

He was answering their question, requesting a sign for His authority, the sign is His resurrection.

When the Lord arose, He opened the disciples’ minds so that they might understand the Scriptures.

**The Discerner of Hearts 2:23-25**

Verse 23-24: They believed that He was the awaited Messiah, but they did not comprehend that He was the Savior of the world. Rather, they imagined that He was the King of Israel who would liberate them from being occupied and grant them a worldly power. They did not understand that He was the Savior of their spirits therefore their hearts were not changed and consequently the Lord did not place His trust in them.

## Lesson delivery idea:

A. GOD IS A MIRACLE WORKER (JOHN 2:11)
   When the wine ran out at the wedding of Cana, it must have been incredibly sad for the couple who just got married. If not for the intervention of Jesus, the wedding of Cana would have ended in shame.
   Don’t we all have situations like this in our lives? Where the situation is beyond us, and we need God’s intervention. We can always trust God to care for us in those moments. Any situation, which is impossible for us, is possible for God because He is a miracle worker.
   A miracle is a supernatural act of God through which He accomplishes His will and reveals His power and glory. Just like God performed a miracle for the couple at their wedding, God still intervenes in situations which trouble our lives. God’s miracles should not be seen like a genie in a lamp. He is not there to grant us our wishes despite their repercussions. God’s miracles result in His glory and the working out of His perfect will for our lives. Therefore, let us learn a few points:
B. WE SHOULD TRUST GOD WITH OUR PROBLEMS (JOHN 2:3)
   While others began to panic, St. Mary knew exactly what to do. She took the situation to Jesus. Too often in life, we struggle with situations both big and small rather than bringing

them to Jesus. Jesus cares about our everyday needs, not just our spiritual needs. There is no issue too small or problem too big for Him to care. (See: Mat 6:26)

We should trust Jesus not only with the difficult situations but our entire lives because He knows the best for us and can turn hopeless mess into a miracle.

C. WE SHOULD DO WHATEVER JESUS TELLS US (JOHN 2:5)

This week's memory verse is so important for our life. After St. Mary spoke to Jesus, she told the servants at the wedding: "Do whatever He tells you."

As we walk with God, we must learn to do whatever He tells us. In Jesus Christ, we find the perfect model of obedience and as His followers we are called to follow His example.

Too often, we like to pick and choose which of God's commandments to follow. We decide on which commandments are relevant to us. Partial obedience is still disobedience (consider the example of Saul in 1 Samuel 15).

D. GOD ONLY DOES THE BEST (JOHN 2:10)

The master of the banquet was confused that the best wine should be kept till last. From this, we can learn that man's best is never equal to God's best.

God's gifts are always the best (James 1:17). Sometimes, we can be tempted to chase world things and pleasure, yet we will find they never compare to what God wants to bless us with.

Each year companies launch the newest best products, yet very quickly they become second best. God will never be outdone. God loves to show mercy. His goodness has no end.

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, review the following and pray with them to round up the lesson:

1. When we trust in God, we will never be put to shame.
2. God can turn a mess into a miracle.
3. When we obey God, we can participate in His work.
4. God does the best things for His children.

**Memory Verse:**

**Jn 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."**

**References:**

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