

# JOHN

AND THE WORD WAS GOD

## THE WEDDING AT CANA

John 2:1–12

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### RELATED SCRIPTURES

John 19:26–27 | John 13:1 | Isaiah 15:1–7

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 2.1.26

### SUMMARY

In first-century Palestine, weddings were grand events that would often be prolonged for up to a week. And if the host ran out of wine early, it could be particularly damaging to the host's reputation. Though Jesus' public ministry had only just begun, Mary undoubtedly observed from experience that Jesus—the One unencumbered by sin—had a way of solving problems. However, Jesus' response might seem surprising: "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come" (v. 4). Jesus' use of *woman* was polite, but not typical of what a son would call his mother. But more puzzling is Jesus' response that his "hour has not yet come." The language of his response is not rude, but it is abrupt. Why did Jesus respond this way? As he began his ministry, Jesus had a singular goal—to do the will of his heavenly Father. Solving an inconvenient social faux pas—however ghastly it might have been—was not the *primary* motivation for Jesus to miraculously respond. Furthermore, Jesus' hour—a term he commonly used to refer to his suffering (John 13:1)—had not arrived, but would his mother understand this? It is more likely that many things were coming together at once in this moment. Performing a sign—which is what all Jesus' miracles were—would certainly come with consequences; it could bring a lot of attention before Jesus' work was complete. But a sign, as the one he did, could also serve the greater purpose of revealing why God Almighty wrapped himself in humanity. Jesus used the ceremonial jars filled with water (v. 6), which would have normally been used to "clean" oneself in preparation for worship. By changing *that* water to wine, Jesus was proclaiming that something new is here—a way to cleanse the people that was effective, permanent, and abundant—and it would come through his suffering. Though Jesus' followers wouldn't connect all these dots in the moment, what Jesus did had another effect on his disciples who "believed in him" (v. 11). Jesus acts to draw us to himself that we might believe in him.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 2:1–12.

Why would Jesus tell his mother, "My hour has not yet come," yet do what he did to solve the dilemma at hand? Was this a miracle of convenience, or did it speak to a bigger truth? If so, what is the bigger truth?

Read Isaiah 5:1–7. What is the problem being described, and how might Jesus' miracle at the wedding be related to what we read in Isaiah 5?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.