

*John 2:1-11* On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." <sup>6</sup> Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. <sup>10</sup> And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" <sup>11</sup> This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

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A rock song from the seventies group BTO rang out the adage "You ain't seen nothing yet." That same adage has been used regularly to point people past something that caught their immediate attention to what was yet to come. A coach might say it of his team early in the season. A magician might say it after his first trick. And today we learn that our Lord might well have said it after His first miracle.

Jesus, His mother and all His disciples had all been invited to a wedding feast. And in this day and age, they knew how to throw a party. It is thought that these events sometimes lasted several days. There were many things to be taken care of for such an event. Many people were involved in assuring that everything would go off without a hitch. Much like in wedding receptions of today, there was only one major thing that could go wrong and really ruin the festivities. You could run out of food or drink. And that is exactly what happened. The wine had run dry. And especially in this culture and perhaps our own, no wine meant no party.

No one knows exactly what Jesus and His mother's connection to the bride or groom of this wedding was but somehow when the wine ran dry, Mary heard about the problem. And either from watching Jesus grow up or simply knowing who He was, she knew one truth. If there was a need, it should be placed in Jesus' hand.

So she told Jesus of the problem. “They have run out of wine,” she told him. Jesus responded by saying, “What does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” You see Jesus wasn’t there as the steward of the wine at the feast. He was simply a guest. What did this problem have to do with him? And besides if Mary was asking for Jesus to start displaying His divine power fully in public, well the timing just wasn’t right yet. His hour had not yet come.

Mary, for her part, ignored Jesus’ words and trusted rather in his person. She knew that even if it was not time for Jesus to make a scene with His divine power, he still could remedy the current situation. So she said to those who were in charge of the wine, “Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.”

Jesus looked around and placed His eyes upon six large jars that the Jews used to wash their hands before they ate. Yes, He would use the instruments of the old covenant to usher in the new covenant. He would show that the rituals of washing which God had given to the Jews to keep pure were always meant to point ahead to Him who needed no washing in order to be pure. Now that the pure one stood in their midst, soon there would be no need for the things that had pointed to him.

So Jesus told the servants to go ahead and fill up those jars to the brim. And they did as Mary had instructed them. They listened to Jesus and filled up the jars right to the brim. Then He told them to draw some of that water they had just filled up and take it to the main steward of the feast. When the steward tasted the water, it sure didn’t taste like water. That is because it was no longer water. Jesus had turned the water into wine. Now most of the people at the party had no idea miracle had just happened, after all most of them were drunk. Even the steward had no idea a miracle had just happened. He just thought some unusually fine wine had been brought out late in the feast. Only a couple people even knew what had happened. Mary knew. The servants knew. And perhaps most importantly, Jesus’ disciples knew. In fact, they did more than just know that Jesus had done a miracle, but they began then and there to place their trust in Him.

They began to have their own epiphany that this One who had called them was no ordinary guy. And they were right. He was no ordinary guy. He was God's only son, God in the flesh. He was the Messiah. He was the one who could turn water into wine effortlessly. And that was only the beginning. This was something Jesus had done "before his hour." It was the beginning to the multitudes of miracles He was about to do right before their eyes. Jesus well could have said, "You ain't seen nothing yet. Oh, Peter, James, John, all of you, if your eyes were amazed at this feat, you will fall over stunned when you realize all that you will see. I will feed five thousand with a 5 loaves and two fish. I will walk on water. I will heal the sick. And I will raise the dead. Water to wine! That is only the beginning. You ain't seen nothing yet. In fact my disciples, you won't have seen my best miracles until when enter Jerusalem and you behold me hanging on the cross. Then and only then will my hour have come. Then and only then will I manifest my glory before anyone and everyone who walks by the cross just outside the city gate. It might not look so glorious, but trust me that is my glory, hanging on the cross redeeming the whole world. You ain't seen nothing yet!" Yes Jesus used this first miracle to cause belief in the disciples, but they hadn't seen anything yet!

So what about us? What should Jesus first miracle mean to us? Well first, it is right that we should stop and be amazed at Jesus' first miracle. More than amazed, we should allow Jesus display of Godly power to be for us an Epiphany of who this Miracle Worker is. He is God himself in the flesh. And this epiphany should cause us to believe in Him all the more. We today should see and believe just as those first disciples did.

But there is also a caution in the text for us. We must realize that these types of miracles are not Jesus' greatest work. These type of miracles the prelude to the music, the appetizer to the meal, the foreword to the book. Jesus death and resurrection is the musical high note, the main course, the heart of the book.

It is easy at times to think that, if only Jesus would do some great miracle in our lives, we would believe more strongly. But when we think like this, we show that we do not understand one very important fact. He already has. He has done His best miracle in our lives. He has

washed us clean of our sin in Holy Baptism. He has fed us with His body and blood from His altar. He has brought the miracle of His redeeming death and resurrection into our lives in the most real ways possible. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not just something we do in church; they are rather then very miraculous means by which the forgiveness that Jesus won for us comes to us. Oh sure, Jesus may still do other miracles in our life. But the best has already come. Living on this side of Easter morning, we have seen God's best miracle. When His hour had come, Jesus destroyed death, the devil, and our flesh. He removed our sins. He rose to assure us of eternal life with Him. The disciples could be told that they hadn't seen anything yet! But not us. We have seen God's very best! Amen.