

Could Jesus really be the Messiah, the Christ?

The original followers of Jesus were a mixed group of people. Besides a doctor in their midst, they were simple Jews from common backgrounds working as fishermen, tax collectors, and the like. They were not the best of the best, educated in the schools of modern religion, yet they were chosen to take on the yoke of a rabbi and learn from him.

These men were expecting some great things from Jesus and they had a feeling that they had tapped into something great! But they couldn't help but wonder, "Could this really be the Messiah, the Christ?"

They had been waiting for the Savior, the King of the Jews, their whole life and now they had only known this man Jesus for three days.

Every eye was watching him closely and listening to every word that he said to see if he was the one that they had been waiting for- the one sent by God to set them and their people free.

Now, Jesus comes up with this great world changing idea! "Hey, guys, let's go to a wedding!" Not exactly what you expect to hear the supposed Savior of the world say.

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-2 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

This was quite possibly a family wedding as it wasn't far from Jesus' hometown of Nazareth. Jesus' mother was not only attending, but evidently, was involved in hosting or helping with the event. I'm sure Jesus enjoyed wedding festivities as much as we do. I believe He liked to have fun. He may have even been the life of the party. *"If you were going to have a fun time, invite Jesus!"*

Just maybe, the reason Jesus took His disciples with Him was that He was trying to teach us something here about the importance of fellowship and doing life together.

But it was at this celebration that something went wrong.

Can you believe that? Have you ever seen anything go wrong at a wedding?

John 2:3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

So much for enjoying Himself. Jesus was suddenly pulled into the problem by none less than His mother. "They have no wine!" implied, "Jesus, what are WE going to do about it?"

John 2:4 "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied.

That may sound like disrespect in our society, but Jesus was actually addressing His mother with respect. "Woman" indicated rank, position, and respect.

"My hour has not yet come."

In this moment of time and with this question, Jesus was asking His mother if she was ready.

1. Was Mary ready for Jesus to perform the first miraculous sign confirming to His disciples that He was the Messiah?
2. Was Mary ready for this transition of authority? Jesus was saying, "If I perform this miracle from this point on, I will only operate and obey the "New Authority" of the Heavenly Father in My life."
3. Was Mary ready to release Jesus into His God-given destiny?! Mothers, the day will come when you must release your children and help them fulfill their destiny!

I'm not sure if Mary fully understood any of this or not.

But she was a student of God's purposes for her life.

- When Jesus was born and the shepherds showed up to worship Him, **“Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19**
- When Jesus was dedicated at the Temple, Simeon prophesied about His destiny, **“The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.” Luke 2:33**
- When the boy Jesus was lost and found in the temple, he told his worried parents that they should have known that he would be in His Father’s House. This confused them, **“But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.” Luke 2:51**

Mary’s Statement of Faith: “Do Whatever He Tells You to Do.”

John 2:5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Mary believed in Miracles, even when she didn’t understand how they would come about.

When the angel Gabriel told her she was going to have a child she responded, **“How will this be,”**

Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” Luke 1:34

I believe but I don’t understand how.

- “I don’t fully understand what he just told me, but I do believe that he can do something special, something extraordinary!” “So just listen to Him and do what He tells you to do.”
- Mary is saying, “My hands are off this problem now. Jesus will take it from here.”

Water Into Wine

John 2:6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. (between 120 – 180 gallons)

Not pots of drinking water, but water pots that were used for the Jewish tradition of purification.

John 2:7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

- When Jesus does a work, He does it completely, abundantly, and fully. He fills it to the brim!
- To the servants this request would seem meaningless in that most of the guests would have already washed, so there was no reason to top off the cleansing pots.
- But they did it anyway, even when it made no sense, and they witnessed a miracle.

John 2:8-11 Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, (When they drew out from the pots, the transformation had already taken place.)

9 and the master of the banquet (the MC) tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

Ok Jesus, Why?

We realize you are helping your Mother out of a jam, but why this miracle of turning water to wine.

John 2:11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This was Jesus’ first miracle, and this was the first of seven miraculous signs recorded in the Gospel of John that revealed Jesus’ glory as the Messiah, the Christ.

This was very significant for his disciples who were wondering, “Could Jesus really be the Messiah, the Christ?”

Later, after the resurrection of Jesus, Peter would stand up and publicly declare in **Acts 2:22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.**

Concerning the signs of Jesus, John concludes his account of the life of Jesus with these words...

John 20:30-31 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This Was Also Jesus' First Step to The Cross

John 2:4 "My hour has not yet come." "It's not my time yet, Mary, or is it?"

"Do you realize what is going to happen if I perform a public miracle?"

- "Do you realize that I won't be just turning water into wine?"
- "This just won't be my first miracle."
- "This just won't prove me to my disciples."

"But this is the first step to the cross."

- This will put into action a chain of events that cannot be stopped.
- This will untimely lead me to crucifixion.

There was no turning back at this point.

- This was the first of many milestones in Jesus' road to the cross.
- Jesus was at the beginning point to a journey of obedience.

We, like Jesus, are on a journey to fulfill God's callings on our lives.

On our journey, as we obey, we will encounter many difficulties and many problems that we cannot solve, just like Mary did on this wedding day. But we realize that Jesus has the power to turn water into wine. To turn any situation.

- He can still take the ordinary and transform it into something extraordinary.
- Jesus is in the transforming business, the changing business. He still turns water into wine.

One touch from God changes everything! -Bill Godwin

Bold Next Step This week I will look to Jesus and his miracle power to change my circumstances.

"Do Whatever He Tells You to Do."

Mary's words are words of wisdom for you and me to live by: Do whatever he tells you to do.

Do you want your life and your family to be blessed?

Do whatever he tells you to do.

Do you want to please Father God?

Do whatever he tells you to do.

Do you want your life to count?

Do whatever he tells you to do.

Do you want your ministry to be successful?

Do whatever he tells you to do.

Do you want to be a history maker?

Do whatever he tells you to do.

Do you want to hear Jesus say, "Well done my good and faithful servant?"

Do whatever he tells you to do.

Do whatever he tells you to do.

May we all have that kind of resolve, to do something for that reason and that reason alone.

Do whatever he tells you to do. When we do, we will see the miraculous!

Bold Next Step: This week I will be looking and listening for instructions from Jesus, ready to do whatever he tells me to do.

Because Jesus was willing to take the first step, because Jesus was willing to go to the cross for me, He turned my heart of water into to wine. I left my empty life behind, and He filled me to the brim with the Spirit of the Living God! What about you?