

WHATEVER HE SAYS, DO IT!

Ps. Craig Mobey

SCRIPTURE

John 2:1-10, 'Three days later Mary, the mother of Jesus, was at a wedding feast in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited and were there. When the wine was all gone, Mary said to Jesus, "They don't have any more wine." Jesus replied, "Mother, my time hasn't yet come! You must not tell me what to do." Mary then said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do." At the feast there were six stone water jars that were used by the people for washing themselves in the way that their religion said they must. Each jar held about twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus told the servants to fill them to the top with water. Then after the jars had been filled, he said, "Now take some water and give it to the man in charge of the feast." The servants did as Jesus told them, and the man in charge drank some of the water that had now turned into wine. He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants did. He called the bridegroom over and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then after the guests have had plenty, the other wine is served. But you have kept the best until last!"'

INTRODUCTION

Imagine yourself hosting a wedding, all is going well and everyone is having a good time. Then the wine runs out. If you fail to get more wine, you will bring shame on yourself and your family. So, you are in trouble and to get out of it, you need to urgently get wine. Quickly.

Then comes this female guest who tells the servants to listen to her son. And he says to take the water pots that were there for purification and to fill them with water. Having done this, he then says to take the pots of water straight to the man with a problem: the man in charge of the feast.

Now place yourself in the shoes of the servants, what is going through your mind?

- 'How much wine has he had?'
- 'This is just about the craziest thing I have ever heard!'
- 'We need wine, not water!'

- ‘We must take what where?’
- What else would you say?

BODY

Mary

Mary said two things. To Jesus, she said, ‘They don’t have any more wine.’ To the servants, she said, ‘Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.’

Turning water into wine was Jesus’ first miracle. So why did Mary tell Jesus about the problem, considering that He had not performed any miracles yet? Did she know that this was “His time” meaning that she knew that Jesus could do something extraordinary about the problem on hand? Was she worried about the host and his family, imagining the shame that was about to descend upon them? Was it because she was used to talking to Him and casually mentioned what she observed? What if Mary remained silent about the problem?

After Jesus’ words, which Mary seemed to ignore, she tells the servants, ‘Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.’ Now at this point, either Mary was about to be exposed as an interfering so-and-so or Jesus was about to do something extraordinary. Something had to happen.

What we do know is that Mary’s faith in her Son was rock solid. She rightfully ‘banked’ on the extraordinary in the middle of a difficult time.

Reflection: What about you? Who do you ‘bank’ on; who do you turn to in your difficult times? What is your expectation from those who you turn to?

Jesus

Jesus on the other hand, after Mary told Him about the problem, replied to her, ‘Mother, my time hasn’t yet come! You must not tell me what to do.’ Jesus did not deny being able to do something extraordinary, He just said that His time was not now.

Although it may appear that Jesus’ was disciplining Mary, He was not. Jesus was also not refusing to do something extraordinary; He was telling Mary something along the lines of ‘do not be anxious.’

Jesus does what is necessary, He does it when it is necessary, Human nature on the other hand, in difficult times can be unsteady and we are usually in a hurry. It may be to us as if God is too early or too late. What we do know with this miracle is two important facts:

1. The wine had run out, there was no more.
2. The servants knew that in the stone pots was water, not wine.

That this wedding feast was without wine is beyond question and therefore this miracle of water into wine is without suspicion. Jesus does what is necessary, He does it when it is necessary and therefore, we can understand His words, ‘Mother, my time hasn't yet come! You must not tell me what to do.’

Reflection: When you request God to intervene, do you also trust His timing? Do immediately you give God the honour when He comes through for you? Where is God when you are in a difficult spot?

Application

Give Him what you have.

At the wedding, there 6 stone jars that Jesus could use. The servants did not deny Him the use of the water jars meant for ceremonial cleansing. These jars would have had many hands dipped into them, the servants – as far as we know – did not insist on cleaning them either. They surrendered both themselves and the 6 stone jars to Jesus according to Jesus’ needs.

One in Jesus’ care and control, the extraordinary happened.

Reflection:

When you ask for Jesus to intervene, do you hold back or give over everything?

Have you thought about giving over to Jesus, in addition to your difficulties, yourself? Your marriage? Family life? Children?

Who is best able to do something extraordinary in difficult times? Jesus or you?

Whatever He says, do it.

This speaks to your trust and obedience in/to God.

I do not recall the servants telling Jesus that He can use the stone jars later on. I do not recall the servants telling Jesus to find someone else to take the 6 stone jars of water to the man in charge of the feast.

I do not recall Mary's trust and confidence in Jesus falling apart.

As God is glorified, His people benefit.

Reflection:

Are you asking that Jesus intervenes, but not doing what He says to do in His Word?

Are you immediately turning to His Word to find out what He says during your difficult times?

Are you consistently following His instructions for your marriage, raising children and family relationships?

Do you have trust and obedience issues with God? If so, what are you going to do about it?

CONCLUSION

John 2:9-10, 'and the man in charge drank some of the water that had now turned into wine. He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants did. He called the bridegroom over and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then after the guests have had plenty, the other wine is served. But you have kept the best until last!"'

In those times, it was usual to give the guest the best wine first. They would have been generous and the quality and quantity of the wine would have been a credit to the person in charge of the feast.

Now stand in the host's shoes, your wine has run out and you are about to be shamed. Then came some servants with the purification jars and they ask you to taste what is inside. Given that many people would have used the jars as intended, how do you feel

about tasting its contents? But you do taste, and it is the most wonderful wine that you have ever tasted.

What Jesus had asked was done according to His timing.

In our lives? Let us be obedient to His Word and directing, trust His timing knowing that when God is glorified, His people benefit.

Amen.