



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Jesus: The Ultimate Agent of Change (John 2:1-11)

OCTOBER 26, 2010

Brent Alderman / PO Box 2060, Annapolis, MD 21404 / www.capitolcom.org / brent.alderman@capitolcom.org

A week from today changes will take place. That's the nature of elections, of politics, of life. Anyone reluctant to accept change will often be disappointed, for it is one thing we all experience on a regular basis. How we handle change and even how we take part in bringing about change says much about our character. Not all change is bad; not all change is good. Change is still inevitable.

We come to a text today that is a famous change-event. It was Jesus' first miracle performed in public and gives us more insight into how He operates and what is important to this One called the Son of God over and over again in this book of John. Consider closely who He is and watch Him intently as He continues to reveal Himself to us.

1) PRIORITY OF JESUS

John 2:1-4— On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come."

Timing is everything, isn't it? All through the New Testament gospels Jesus speaks about His "hour". It always referred to His death on the cross, burial and resurrection. He is saying here that He is on a divine timetable and does not operate based on when people think He ought. His words to His mother here seem strange to us, but His meaning really is clear.

The words "What do I have to do with you?" sound arrogant, but they were only a gentle rebuke. They constituted an idiom that is hard to translate. "What do we have in common?" meaning "Your concern and mine are not the same" captures the spirit of the clause. Jesus was not dishonoring His mother. He was explaining to her that He would handle the situation, but in His own time and way. Jesus' obedience to His heavenly Father was more important than His obedience to His earthly mother.¹

There may be times when we look to Jesus for an answer to an immediate need, but the answer seems delayed to us. Trusting in Christ and His wisdom may mean waiting, but you can be assured

that when He works it will be to glorify Himself at the right time in the right way.

2) PERSPECTIVE OF MARY

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

We saw in verse three that Mary was concerned that the groom had run out of wine. Jesus showed her that His power, though limitless, was reserved to bring Him maximum glory and He would act when the time was right. What humility we see in Mary's response as she turned to the wait staff and, putting full trust in the Son of God, told them to wait for His word – whatever it would be.

How about our responses in our prayers? Can we say that we are willing to wait, completely leaving the situation in God's hand even though we have no idea how it will turn out?

She did not understand what He would do or when, but she had confidence in His compassion and ability. She demonstrated admirable submission and faith toward Jesus. She allowed Jesus to take charge and solve the problem, and she pointed others to Jesus, not to herself. Previously she had approached Jesus as His mother and had received a mild rebuke. Now she approached Him as her Lord and shortly received satisfaction (cf. Matt. 15:21–28). In this she provides an excellent example for us.²

3) POWER OF JESUS

John 2:6-8— Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him.

There was never a question that Jesus could turn the water into wine, but since He had never done a sign miracle like this, what did anyone expect? Maybe Mary remembered back to the conversation she had with an angel over thirty years earlier:

Luke 1:35-37 - "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be

BIBLE STUDY

LEGISLATIVE AIDES (DURING INTERIM): TUESDAYS @ 11:30AM, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (ROOM 218)

Maryland

Jesus: The Ultimate Agent of Change (John 2:1-11)

called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God."

GOD MAY OR MAY NOT DECIDE TO CHANGE A SITUATION, BUT THE REASON IS NEVER BECAUSE HE IS SIMPLY UNABLE.

4) PERFECTION OF JESUS

John 2:9-10 — When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."

When God creates, it is the best. When He brings about change, it is not inferior to plans that we could have come up with.

If our Lord had preached a sermon after He turned the water into wine, what might He have said? For one thing, He likely would have told the people that the world's joy always runs out and cannot be regained, but the joy He gives is ever new and ever satisfying. (In the Scriptures, wine is a symbol of joy). The world offers the best at the first, and then, once you are "hooked," things start to get worse. But Jesus continues to offer that which is best until we one day enjoy the finest blessings in the eternal kingdom.³

5) PURPOSE OF JESUS

John 2:11a— This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory;

Again, John brings us back to the glory (impact, weight, significance) of God. Using the word "signs" signifies that these miracles weren't done to impress or bring about fame. There was a deeper meaning to be grasped.

It was a miracle that had significance. Its significance appears to be that it showed that Jesus had the same

power to create that God demonstrated in the Creation. Thus it pointed to Jesus being the Creator God who could transform things from one condition into another. This demonstration of His power glorified Jesus in the eyes of those who witnessed and heard about it.⁴

6) PROGRESS OF THE DISCIPLES

John 2:11b – ... and His disciples believed in Him.

To this point, Andrew, Peter, John, Philip and Nathanael are known to be following Jesus and that had only been for one or two days. But this miracle spoke volumes to them. They had already confessed that they believed that Jesus was God, the promised Messiah, so in this verse we see how their faith and belief deepened as they witnessed first-hand the power, perfection and purpose of Christ.

If you're a follower of Jesus, is He changing your life? As you see Him work in your heart through the Scriptures, prayer and life's situations, do you grow further in your understanding of Him and His glory? Do we reflect the humility of Mary in trusting Him to do the best thing for us, even though we might not know how it will turn out?

Jesus has the power to change things, but in His time and in His way. I encourage you to trust Him to "manifest His glory" as He makes changes in your life. If you aren't believing and trusting Jesus, now is the time to turn from sin to a life of enjoying and pleasing Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things past away; behold, new things have come.

¹ Tom Constable. (2003; 2003). *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Jn 2:4). Galaxie Software.

² Tom Constable. (2003; 2003). *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Jn 2:5). Galaxie Software.

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (Jn 2:1). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

⁴ Tom Constable. (2003; 2003). *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Jn 2:11). Galaxie Software.