

The Character of God is Revealed Throughout Scripture.

September 20, 2015

I love the story that is written in John chapter 2. Jesus was invited to a wedding and he and his disciples travelled to Cana to attend. Mary, Jesus' mother also was there.

Weddings were important social events and might have lasted for a few days. During the feast, Mary approached Jesus and said, "They have no more wine." This is one of the times that Jesus did something out of the ordinary that was not on his agenda. This was a major crisis for the family hosting the feast for they had a social obligation to provide provisions for the guests who were attending the wedding. They were expected to provide hospitality and to plan accordingly. To run out of wine was simply unacceptable.

Jesus replied, "Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come." Mary said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six water pots (the kind that were used by Jews for ceremonial washing) each holding between 20-30 gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water". They filled them to the brim.

Then he instructed them to draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.

You may be familiar with this story, but when I think about it, I wonder how I would have responded if I was in this position. I am a servant; I fill empty water jars with water as I am told to do. That is one thing. But to draw some out and take it to the governor of the banquet is another story. Remember that Jesus has never shown his power by performing miracles. He wasn't invited to this wedding because word had leaked out that he could speak the word and the wind and waves obeyed his voice. The lame walked and the blind received their sight when Jesus was there. This was before all of that had taken place. He was known simply as Mary's son and he was invited as a guest just like all the other ordinary people. He hadn't proclaimed himself to be the Son of God. The servants had to have some faith that they were not going to get further embarrassed by serving the governor water when he was looking for wine. But they followed what Jesus told them to do. The governor had no idea where the wine came from or the fact that Jesus turned water into wine when he tasted of it. The servants knew for Jesus had sent them to fill the jars with water. They knew that water went into those pots. Yet here the governor is saying to the bridegroom, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and later when they have all had some of the expensive drink, then the cheaper wine is served, but you have saved the best for last." Jesus revealed his glory and the disciples put their faith in him.

When Jesus went to Jerusalem and saw those who were selling oxen, sheep and doves in the temple his righteous anger was kindled. The sacrifices were to be honoring to the Lord and here were people overcharging for animals as pretence of doing a service for God. Jesus made a scourge of small cords and drove the merchants out of the temple along with the sheep and oxen. He overturned the buckets of money and overturned the

tables. He told those who sold doves, "Take these things away. Don't make my Father's house a house of merchandise."

When the Jews asked "What sign do you have to prove to us you have the right to do these things?" Jesus replied, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." They misunderstood what he was implying. They asked him if he would raise the temple up when it took 46 years to build. Jesus was speaking of his body and he predicted that he would raise from the dead.

In John 19:10, Pilate said, "Whence art thou?" Jesus spoke not a word.

Pilate said, "You're not going to talk to me? Don't you know that I have power to crucify you and I have power to release you?"

Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against me except it was given to you from above. Therefore he that delivered me unto you has the greater sin."

Pilate tried from that moment on to release Jesus, but he had gotten himself in too deep to turn back and Jesus was sentenced to die. In verse 19, Pilate commanded that a sign be placed over the head of Jesus which said, "Jesus of Nazareth, king of the Jews." When people complained and wanted to change the sign to read "He claimed to be king of the Jews", Pilate refused to change it. He said, "What I have written, I have written."

As Jesus was dying on the cross, people threw his words back in his face. "If you are the king, come down from the cross. He saved others, but he can't save himself." In John 19, it is written that Jesus knew all things were now accomplished to fulfill the Scriptures. He cried, "It is finished!" He hung his head and died.

In chapter 20 Mary Magdalene and other women went to the sepulcher and found the stone had been rolled away from the entrance of the tomb that Jesus had been laid in.

She proclaimed that someone had taken the Lord out of the sepulcher and the women didn't know where they had laid him. Peter came to the tomb and saw the clothing was there and the napkin that had been wrapped around his head was folded and laid in a separate place. The disciples went away to their own houses, but Mary stood outside the sepulcher weeping and as she wept she stooped and looked into the sepulcher. She saw 2 angels in white one sat at the head and the other sat at the feet where Jesus had been laid. They asked her why she was weeping. And she told them that she was upset because they had taken her Lord away and she didn't know where they had laid him.

She turned around and Jesus was standing there. She didn't recognize him and he asked, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom seek ye?" She thought he was the gardener and she answered, "Sir, if you have borne him hence tell me where you have laid him and I will take him away." Jesus said, "Mary". She turned herself towards him and said, "Robboni" meaning master.

In Luke 11:29, Jesus said, "This is an evil generation. They seek a sign, There will be no sign given except the sign of Jonas the prophet." Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites and the Son of Man is a sign to this generation. The Queen of the South believed when she had

sought to visit Solomon because she had heard of his wisdom. She declared that the half had not been told to her.

The Ninevites believed and repented when Jonah preached his message of judgment to them. The only sign for this world is Jesus, the crucified Lord who rose from the dead. Saul was changed to an apostle of Jesus Christ after the encounter he had with him on the road to Damascus.

Nathaniel believed in Jesus after Jesus told him that he saw him sitting under the fig tree. For Thomas, Jesus appeared to him and told him to touch the nail prints in his hand and to thrust his hand in his side. Thomas believed after that event.

There are those who are called by God, but the Bible says that "Many are called but few are chosen." If Jesus is calling you, don't harden your hearts, but believe and receive that gift of the Holy Spirit. Believe on the Lord Jesus and follow his leading for your life. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:6-7