Epiphany 2 John 2:1-11
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See Jesus Reveal His Glory
I. His glory as the obedient Son of God.
II. His glory as the almighty Son of God.
III. His glory as our gracious Savior.

Dear Christian friends,

"This, the BEGINNING of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee." Before looking at this VERY FIRST of Jesus' miracles think of some of the miracles that **were to follow**. HEALING sick people – lepers, the **blind**, the deaf, mute, paralyzed - calming **stormy** seas JUST BY **speaking** the word – feeding thousands of people with **next to nothing** – raising dead people back to life. TOP them **all off** with Jesus' greatest miracle of all – raising Himself back to life that **first Easter** morning.

THEN THERE'S this very first miracle - Jesus turning water into wine at a ***"wedding in Cana of Galilee."*** Cana was not some BIG, METROPOLITAN city but a sleepy little village **"up north"** in Galilee. Jesus wasn't responding to a LIFE-THREATENING **situation** or a CRUSHING, NUMBING death. This was a POTENTIAL – a **possible** – social embarrassment – **running out** of wine at a wedding reception. But NO MATTER – Jesus miraculously turned water into wine – the social embarrassment was **avoided** – the party went on **as planned**.

If THAT'S ALL we see in Jesus' **first** miracle then we've missed its whole point. John calls this a ***"miraculous sign."*** Yes, it was a MIRACLE – but a miracle that was also a ***"sign."*** This miracle had a message – it pointed to something EVEN BIGGER than the **miracle itself**. Listen to John explain it, ***"(Jesus) revealed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."*** The purpose of this miracle wasn't simply to SOLVE a **social blunder**. Jesus did this miracle to REVEAL ***"His glory"*** and to strengthen His **disciples' faith**. So we now study this miracle TO ALSO SEE **Jesus' glory** and to grow in **our faith**. So SEE JESUS REVEAL HIS GLORY – His glory 1)**as** the obedient Son of God, 2)**as** the almighty Son of God and 3)**as** our gracious Savior.

I. As the obedient Son of God.

Last week we saw Jesus **baptized** by John the Baptist. Remember that immediately after that Jesus spent ***"forty days in the desert being tempted by the devil."*** AFTER that Jesus returned to the area **in Judea** where John the Baptist was working. Jesus there gathered His **first disciples** – Peter and Andrew, **James** and John, **Philip** and Nathanael. Together with these disciples Jesus then set off on a ***"three day"*** journey to Cana in Galilee. ***"Jesus and His disciples were invited to (this) wedding."***

Here we run into all sorts of UNANSWERED questions. WHO were the **bride** and groom? Why were **Mary** and **Jesus** (and His disciples) invited to this wedding? Were they relatives – **friends** – **neighbors**? HOW MANY other people were there? Jewish wedding receptions **could last** UP TO a whole week. Did Jesus come right **at the start** of the feast or a few days into it? WHO BLEW it and didn't order enough wine for the feast?

None of that is IMPORTANT to Jesus' **first** miracle so God doesn't answer our questions. God DIRECTS our attention to the **problem** – ***"the wine was gone."*** SOMEHOW Mary knew about that and she simply went to Jesus and told Him, ***"They have no wine."*** Mary didn't dictate ANY SOLUTION to Jesus – didn't even suggestion one - but she did expect Him to DO SOMETHING about the problem. Now Jesus hadn't done **any** miracles YET but Mary does know and believe that **her Son** is also the Son of God ***"with whom nothing is impossible."***

Jesus' response might strike us as a bit ABRUPT and DISRESPECTFUL but it was neither one. ***"Woman, what does that have to do with you and Me? My time has not come yet."*** For the past

30 years Jesus had been BUSY LIVING the perfect life **we owed** God – busy perfectly obeying ALL TEN commandments including that **4th** one of ***"honoring"*** and **obeying** our parents. Jesus was the PERFECT CHILD – the **perfect** teenager – the **perfect** adult child we could never be. Jesus NEVER ONCE disobeyed or disrespected Mary or Joseph – **never once** did He grumble about **having to do** whatever – **never once** SAID HE WOULD DO something but then didn't do it. Jesu was the ALWAYS loving – **obedient** – **respectful** child we were supposed to be.

Even here Jesus was POLITELY pointing out to Mary an IMPORTANT CHANGE in **their relationship**. Theirs wasn't simply a MOTHER-SON relationship but a SAVIOR-BELIEVER relationship. Jesus was both Mary's SON **and** her SAVIOR and His work as our Savior was now changing into a PUBLIC MINISTRY. Mary's concerns must GIVE WAY to God the Father's plans for Jesus. Jesus will live **His life** and carry out **His ministry** ACCORDING TO His Father's plans AND His Father's TIMING. Notice Jesus didn't bluntly tell Mary, "No! It's none of your business." He respectfully explains, ***"My time has not come yet."***

SEE Jesus reveals His glory as the OBEDIENT Son of God – obedient to both **Mary** and His **heavenly Father**. Jesus lived that **perfect obedience** not just AS AN EXAMPLE for us to follow but **especially** AS OUR SUBSTITUTE under God's law. Jesus perfectly obeyed **all ten** commandments and He gives us **all the credit** for His perfect obedience.

As Jesus gets ready to do His **first** miracle SEE Jesus reveal His glory…

II. As the almighty Son of God.

Mary accepts Jesus' **explanation** and she ALSO confidently picks up on His ***"not yet – My time has not come yet."*** SOMETIME – SOMEHOW Jesus would act and that was GOOD ENOUGH for Mary. She tells the servants, ***"Do whatever He tells you."***

You could practically write a **whole sermon** just on those FEW WORDS – ***"do WHATEVER He tells you."*** DON'T argue with Him – don't think, "This is STUPID! This will NEVER WORK!" Don't suggest a BETTER WAY **as if** you know better than Jesus. We may not always understand WHY God ***"tells us whatever"*** but God does know what He's doing. God calls on us to TRUST Him – NOT UNDERSTAND Him. The Bible has plenty of examples of **God telling** people to do seemingly stupid things but GOD'S WAYS WORKED. Think, for example, of the bronze snake on a pole – the fall of **Jericho** – Naaman cured of his **leprosy**, etc. Each one LOOKED RIDICULOUS but **each one** worked.

OR right here – Jesus' **first** miracle. There stood those ***"six stone water jars, which the Jews used for ceremonial cleansing." "Fill the jars with water,"*** Jesus tells the servants. ***"So they filled them to the brim."*** You can easily picture the servants EXCHANGING PUZZLED looks – perhaps whispering to **each other** out of Jesus' hearing. "So WHAT'S THIS **supposed to accomplish**? You can't fool people into **thinking plain water** is good wine. To replace wine with **just water** – good grief! This is RIDICULOUS!" WITHOUT any fanfare or announcement of an IMPENDING miracle – without even speaking a word – Jesus then tells the servants, ***"Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."***

Oh, see Jesus reveal His **glory** – His glory as the almighty Son of God! WHAT A GIFT Jesus had **for this couple**. Jesus wasn't cheap or **stingy**. Here's **perhaps** 150 or so gallons of some of the **best wine**.

See Jesus reveal His glory as the **almighty Son** of God and learn to CONFIDENTLY GO to Jesus with ALL your **needs** and **problems**. Not one of our problems is TOO BIG for Jesus **to handle** and none is TOO SMALL to concern Jesus. Go AS MARY did – calmly telling Jesus **your concern** and then confidently wait for Jesus' ANSWER and TIMING. Don't dictate WHAT Jesus **must do** or else you'll really be ticked off at Him. IF Jesus' answer surprises you – **if** Jesus' timing TESTS you – **if** Jesus

tells you something that DOESN'T MAKE SENSE to you – don't get ALL WORKED UP and **upset**. Look again at Jesus' **first miracle** and see FOR YOURSELF that Jesus IS the almighty Son of God who does know what He's doing.

See Jesus reveal His glory – ESPECIALLY His glory…

III. As our gracious Savior.

What lessons for our **faith** and **daily life** we have here in Jesus' **first** miracle! Our Jesus is not just a GREAT GUY but the eternal, almighty Son of God born our **flesh-and-blood** brother. As Jesus made clear to Mary He CAME HERE SENT on a mission by His heavenly Father – a mission He willingly and perfectly completed. Jesus **came here** NOT JUST to **help us** with health problems, etc. He **came here** to be our PERFECT SAVIOR from sin and **guilt**, death, the **devil** and **hell**. So Jesus lived for us that **life of perfect love** and **obedience** that we owed God but never could live. But Jesus DIDN'T STOP there!

We hear Jesus tell Mary, ***"My time has not come yet."*** Those words – that **phrase** – show up several more times in John's gospel until we finally hear Jesus say, ***"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*** That ***"hour"*** was Good Friday and Easter morning.

See Jesus reveal His glory as YOUR GRACIOUS Savior as He heads to His cross. There the sinless Son of God WILLINGLY takes the blame for the sins of the whole world and is punished **in our place**. There the obedient Son of God shed His blood – sacrificed His innocent life – to ***"take away the sin of the world"*** – YOURS and mine included. See Jesus reveal His glory as YOUR CONQUERING Savior risen triumphant over death and hell. SEE Jesus reveal his glory as YOUR GRACIOUS Savior and be sure of His **love** – rejoice in His **forgiveness** – take comfort in His **power** and **promises** – and confidently look forward to **joining Jesus** in His heavenly glory when you die.

""He revealed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him." The disciples already believed in Jesus as the promised Savior. This miracle strengthened their faith in Jesus as their Savior. They still had a LONG, LONG WAY to go and grow in their faith. SO DO WE! That's why Jesus did His miracles – including this **very first** one. This wasn't simply about Jesus PROVIDING WINE for a wedding – this was to strengthen faith in Jesus as our ALMIGHTY – GLORIOUS - GRACIOUS Savior. Amen.

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