

The Word

one to one

10 Publishing
a division of **10**ofthose.com



Episode 4

Here comes God's promised bridegroom!

JOHN 2:1-12

*In the previous episode:
Jesus announces that He
is the gateway to heaven,
inviting us to come and
see for ourselves.*

*In this episode:
A wedding feast
in Cana... with an
unexpected bridegroom.*

¹ 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.

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



A wedding disaster

As we read, we'll see that this section of John is organised around two miracles (signs) which take place at Cana in Galilee.

They are like bookends:

- Starting in chapter 2: the miracle at the wedding...
- ...and closing in chapter 4: saving the official's son from death.

Everything between these two miracles is on the same theme. This is sophisticated writing by someone with a point to make.

Jesus, His friends and His mum are all guests at a wedding. It should be a happy occasion. But there's a problem: the wine has run out. **(v. 3)**

In Jesus' day, the wine running out at a wedding was a big deal. It meant that the bridegroom hadn't done his job properly.

What does Jesus' mother expect Him to do?

- We're not told why or how but she seems to think Jesus will fix it. But will He?

⁴ ‘Woman, why do you involve me?’ Jesus replied. ‘My hour has not yet come.’

⁵ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

Woman: the word Jesus uses was a normal way to address a married woman and doesn't suggest any disrespect.

There's a plan!

Jesus keeps referring to His 'hour' throughout the three years of His public life. John refers to it in chapters 2, 12 and 17.

John records Jesus saying that *'the hour has come'* just before He is arrested, tried and crucified. *'When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you."* (John 17:1)

The hour is Jesus' death and resurrection. Right from the start, this is the plan.

Why does Jesus talk about His 'hour'?

- Jesus wants His mum to know that He's here for something far more important than party tricks.

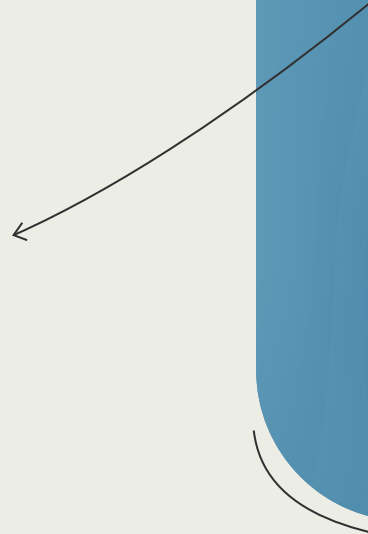
As we'll see, the wedding party is a picture of what is to come – a perfect relationship with God through Jesus.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water’; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, ‘Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.’

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and 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.’



Let the party begin!

Jesus acts, and water is miraculously turned into wine, lots of it.

What is special about this wine?

- Huge quantity! Around 1,000 bottles of wine – way more than any wedding would need. **(v. 7)**
- Excellent quality! The very finest wine – and provided by Jesus, not by the bridegroom. **(v. 10)**

At first glance, it looks like Jesus has simply done a huge favour for a man who failed to properly organise a party.

But there's more to it than that.

Let's flash back
700 years before
Jesus was born to
the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 25:6, 9a

⁶ On this mountain the
LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for
all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine –
the best of meats and
the finest of wines.

⁹ ...In that day they will say,
‘Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him,
and he saved us...’