

Learning More with  
**Stories of the Master**

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~ **The Servants' Secret** ~

You can learn much more about this story by doing these three things:

1. Read the text in which we find the story. This story is found in John 2:1-11.
2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.
3. Answer the reflective questions.

**1. Read the text of the story from the New American Standard Bible and from the Easy Read Version**

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<b>John 2:1-11 - NASB</b>	<b>John 2:1-11 – New Living Translation</b>
<p><sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; <sup>2</sup> and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus *said to Him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus *said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup> His mother *said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” <sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. <sup>7</sup> Jesus *said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” So they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And He *said to them, “Draw <i>some</i> out now and take it to the headwaiter.”</p> <p>So they took it <i>to him</i>. <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and *said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when <i>the people</i> have drunk freely, <i>then he serves</i> the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup> This beginning of <i>His</i> signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. <sup>3</sup> The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus’ mother told him, “They have no more wine.”</p> <p><sup>4</sup> “Dear woman, that’s not our problem,” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”</p> <p><sup>5</sup> But his mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”</p> <p><sup>6</sup> Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus told the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” When the jars had been filled, <sup>8</sup> he said, “Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies.” So the servants followed his instructions.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. <sup>10</sup> “A host always serves the best wine first,” he said. “Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!”</p> <p><sup>11</sup> This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.</p>

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## 2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.

- New wine was wine that was made from the current year’s harvest while old wine was from the previous year and would therefore be stronger. It was made from pomegranates, raisins, apples, dates, honey, herbs, and figs although grapes dominated and was sometimes mixed with spices.
- After the juice was extracted in winepresses it would collect in fermenting compartments and stay there for 4-6 days. Then it was placed in tanned goatskins where it would ferment for another 2-4 months.
- Wine was consumed at daily meals and was often mixed with water at a ratio of 3-1 to make the water safer to drink.
- Wine was poured out as a libation to God. – Exodus 29:38-42; Numbers 15:1-19; 28:14; Leviticus 23:13; Hose 9:4; Gen 35:14
- It was used with feasting and celebrations and at coronations.
- Wine was a sign of many things:
  - \* Blessing and prosperity from God – Gen 27:28, 37:49:11-12; Deuteronomy 7:13; Psalm 104:15; Proverbs 31:6; Joel 2:24; 3:18; Amos 9:12-15; Isa 55:1; Zechariah 10:7
  - \* Joy – Psalm 104:15; Isa 24:11; Zechariah 10:7
- The age of salvation – Jeremiah 31:12; Joel 3:4, 18; Amos 9:13-14;
- The Messianic age – Gen 49:11-12; Isaiah 25:6-8
- A lack of wine was a symbol of judgment - - Deuteronomy 28:30; Isa 16:10; 24:11; 65:21; Jeremiah 48:33; Joel 1:5; Amos 5:11; Mic 6:15; Zephaniah 1:13
- As a guest, Jesus was to provide gifts
- His gift saved the bridegroom the embarrassment of a shortage of wine

These insights from the article, “Wine,” in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, IVP, pages 870-873.

## 3. Answer these Reflective questions.

In the story, Mary told Jesus they had no wine. Do you think she wanted Jesus to perform a miracle?

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What did Jesus mean by his statement, “My hour has not yet come?”

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**Mary told the servants, “Whatever he says to you, do it.” How do you think Mary learned that kind of obedience to the will of God? Do you have that kind of obedience to the will of God?**

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**If I want to be in the right place at the right time and see the mighty works of God, I must develop the heart of a servant who will do what He says. How can I develop more of a heart of a servant?**

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**Jesus did miracles to show His identity as God’s Messiah and to show that the new age of the Messiah had dawned. Read John 14:8-11 and Matthew 12:28 and record your observations about why Jesus performed miracles. What you learn from them?**

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**Jesus did miracles to show authority over death, disease, demons, and nature. Read these miracle stories and discover how Jesus showed His authority.**

Matthew 8:1-3 – \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 4:35-41 – \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 4:31-37 – \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 7:11-17 – \_\_\_\_\_

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**Are you letting Jesus have authority in your life?**

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