

A Lesson from Jesus' Mother

International Bible Lesson

John 2:1-12

Sunday, March 18, 2012

"His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he [Jesus] saith unto you, do it" (John 2:5—KJV).

"Jesus' mother then told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5—GNB).

"His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever Jesus tells you'" (John 2:5—NRSV).

During a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, the steward needed more wine. When Mary learned about the problem, she went to her son for help. After speaking to Jesus, she commanded the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you."

The Bible shows how the true disciples of Jesus eventually learned to do whatever Jesus told them. After persecuting the Church, the Apostle Paul so committed himself to obeying Jesus that he described himself as "a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle" (Romans 1:1). For Paul, serving Jesus came first and his occupation came second. When Jesus called Paul to be an apostle, he obeyed, because he considered himself above all else a servant of Jesus Christ.

Jesus quietly used the servants at the wedding feast to work the first of His signs because they obeyed Him explicitly, exactly as Mary had commanded them. When Jesus told them to use the six stone water jars that the Jews set apart for the Jewish rites of purification, they did not object and used all of them. When Jesus commanded, "Fill the jars with water," they "filled them to the brim;" not halfway or partway full. They obeyed Jesus completely. When Jesus told them to take some out of the jars and take it to the steward, they obeyed immediately. After the steward tasted the water changed to wine, he honored the bridegroom before his guests by saying, "You have kept the good wine until now." Jesus worked the miracle, the bridegroom received the honor, the festivities continued uninterrupted, the miracle met the needs of everyone, and Jesus "revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him"

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Thinking Further

1. Why do you think Jesus performed His first miracle or "sign" at a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee?
2. Why do you think Jesus used the purification jars to change water to wine?
3. In what ways did Jesus avoid showing favoritism when He worked His miracle?
4. What lessons can we learn from the servants who put water in the jars?
5. Why do you think John emphasized that the disciples believed in Him after He performed the sign?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.