

Mother Mary

Please examine the gospel passage below and keep these three questions at the back of your mind as you read it. In the narrative, who initiated the proceedings? Who received directives from Jesus and immediately did what they were told? What was the final result?

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

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

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

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

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

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and 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."

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (Jn 2:1–11, NIV)

Jesus' answer to his mother meant: "Why do you involve me? What has this got to do with me? My hour has not yet come, has it? Didn't you tell me at age twelve when you found me at the temple in Jerusalem that I should live quietly at home in Nazareth?"

Besides, at the temple in Jerusalem, the teachers who heard the young lad speak were astounded by his answers and his understanding; but there was no indication that he could perform miracles.

Jesus' order to the servants: "Fill the jars with water." To the servants, that must have seemed rather irrational. For, at what part of the wedding feast did this happen: at the beginning, or the middle, or towards the end? Obviously it was towards the end – otherwise the wine would not have run out. The water was for ritual-washing at the guests' arrivals. Nobody else was going to arrive anymore. Why should all the jars be filled?

But the servants did everything as Jesus instructed them, and filled the six jars to the brim.

Then they followed more instructions: draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet to drink.

What a surprise it turned out to be, and what blessings for everyone – the wine-steward, the groom, the bride, the guests, and, especially, the servants.

What was the final result?

It revealed Jesus' glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Who received directives from Jesus, and immediately did as they were told? The servants!

The lesson we can learn from the story is: when Jesus tells you to do something, do it! Yes, listen to him, but don't stop there. Heed his instructions and act on them. It can lead to faith in God, to revelation of his glory, and to the blessing of everyone.

The blessedness of Jesus' followers is measured by how obediently they carry out the word of the Lord, not by how impressively they perform rituals in the sight of people or how busy they are involved in spiritual activities, not by how repeatedly they come up with pious remarks or how nice-sounding are

the prayers they say, not by how much theology they know or how many religious conferences they attend, not by how popular they can become or how many famous people they are associated with.

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” (Lk 11:28, NIV)

Who initiated the proceedings at Cana that led to the first of the signs through which Jesus revealed his glory, and caused his disciples to believe in him?

It was Mother Mary!

Her purpose: draw attention to her Son and obedience to him.

That was her vocation at the time; it still is today.

And her command will always be: **Do** whatever Jesus tells you!

Notice that the good servants in the story obeyed not only Jesus, but his Mother too.