

# Wine, Women, Weddings, Whatever

**Big Idea: Jesus always breaks out of the boxes we try to put Him in. Whether He's honouring women in a male-dominated culture, attending weddings instead of hanging around the synagogue, or keeping the party going by bringing the wine, He is predictably unpredictable. We can learn a lesson from His mother when she said: WHATEVER He says to you, do it! (Text – John 2:1-11)**

## 1. Weddings can be ministry opportunities

*On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. (vs. 1,2 NAS)*

Unlike the religiously uptight Pharisees, Jesus was a welcome party guest. He was called a “friend of sinners” (Luke 7:34) for good reason. Instead of spending all His time at the temple or local synagogue, Jesus hung out with ordinary people, even the marginalized, at their workplace, in the marketplace, and in their homes. He showed us that super“natural” gifts were intended for ordinary life when He performed His first miracle at a wedding of all places.

## 2. Wine is not the problem

*When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” (vs. 3 NAS)*

Legalistic Christians get upset over worldly things - like tobacco, drugs, alcohol, pubs, pool halls, casinos, and dance clubs. They would have seen the shortage of wine as a consequence of sinful behavior and an opportunity to straighten out these partying pagans. Instead, Jesus used the moment to communicate the acceptance and provision that's readily available from a loving Father.

## 3. Women are people too

*“Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” (vs. 4 NIV)*

In a culture where orthodox men began their day with the prayer: “Thank God I wasn't born a gentile, thank God I wasn't born a slave, thank God I wasn't born a woman”, Jesus honoured women. He went out of His way to talk to them when others wondered why (John 4:27). More importantly, He listened to them, especially His mother. And while He wasn't planning on showing He was God undercover just yet, He just couldn't say no to His mom!

## 4. Whatever He says to you, do it

*His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” (vs. 5 NAS)*

Sometimes what Jesus asks us to do is a little unexpected, like serving water to party guests expecting wine, served from stone waterpots normally used for washing your hands and feet. The word *whatever* is used today as a resignation, but in this case it carries the passion of a resolution! The reason is simple - because *He says* so! Jesus has proven Himself to be absolutely trustworthy. And notice that He says things directly *to you*. Whether He talks to us through His written Word or through His Spirit, it is always intensely personal. It is spoken specifically to each one of us and He expects obedience. God coined this phrase long before Nike popularized it – just *do it!* Christians study God's Word, memorize God's Word, even talk about God's Word to others, but they often forget to actually do it!

*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.... But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:22,25)*