

— THE —  
GOOD STUFF



SERMON NOTES  
JANUARY 19, 2025

Scripture: John 2:1-11

## JOHN 2:1-11(NRSV)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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*"In Jesus Christ, God transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary!"*

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### I. "JESUS DID!"

- A. No Superman story...only a wedding in Cana of Galilee (on the road between Nazareth and Tiberias) ...a special occasion among ordinary people (only recounted in John's Gospel).
- B. Jesus' mother was in attendance...and Jesus and at least the first four disciples (in John's Gospel) were also.
- C. The wine for the wedding reception "gave out" (an embarrassing and scandalous occurrence) ... Jesus' mother (Mary is not named by John here) makes Jesus aware of the situation.
- D. Jesus' response to his mother is a bit blunt...revealing that the time for Jesus to reveal his glory (display his power) had not yet come.
- E. Jesus' mother says, "Do whatever he tells you," to the servants... (the essence of discipleship)
- F. Jesus orders the six stone jars that were there for the Rites of purification re-stocked, drawn, and taken to the steward...and the water has become wine!! Jesus' first sign (manifestation of God's glory) in John's Gospel.

### II. "JESUS DOES!"

- A. With Jesus' miracle of changing the water to wine a new era has dawned...the world order is reversed! Jesus "did this", the first of his signs, to reveal his glory, that is the glory of God.
- B. A **"sign"** in John's Gospel is usually something that is **public and marvelous** and served at least two purposes...**to reveal the relationship between Jesus and the Father, and to encourage and confirm belief in him.**
- C. All of Jesus' signs are subordinate to his greatest sign, his "raising up", at the crucifixion.
- D. Jesus is the possessor and dispenser of life...the origin of living water...the power of God resides in Jesus and his "signs" are disclosures of God at work in him.
- E. Nothing has changed...but everything has changed...water is wine....Word has become flesh....the not yet, is already!!
- F. And "his disciples believed in him!" Their lives and our lives are transformed by our belief in Jesus!!!!

**What has brought you to faith in Jesus?**

**How is Jesus revealing God's glory today?**

### **III. "JESUS WILL!"**

- A. Mary's imperative to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you," is an invitation to all who will follow Jesus. But how do we know what Jesus would have us do?
- B. Trusting that God will, "Do greater things...," we come believing, offering what we have, and expecting God to transform life.
- C. We, the church, recognize that Jesus did, Jesus does, and Jesus will reveal God's glory in the world, even as we anticipate and expect his return.
- D. We believe, celebrate and participate in the present and coming Kingdom of God by telling the stories of Jesus, allowing God to work in, through, and among us, and sharing in the "signs" that God is bringing today!

**What "signs" of Jesus' transforming power have, and are you experiencing in your own life?**

**How do we recognize "signs" of God's working in our lives?**

**How is God working in the life of Mount Tabor UMC?**

**How are we offering what we have been given to God, and "Doing whatever Jesus says to do?"**

**Do we believe that we will see God do "greater things than these" in the world today? Do we believe that God in Christ can transform the ordinary into the extraordinary?**