

Title: Raising the Bar
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The First Miracle

John 2:1-5 *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.'*

'Dear woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied, 'My time has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Mary's Faith

Why did Mary believe that Jesus can change the water to wine?

- She knew who Jesus was and that He the Son of God
- She was confident when she asked(told) Him to help
- She did not doubt for one second
- She had a relationship with Jesus
- She relied on Jesus and not on herself

Many times we make the mistake of relying on ourselves when we actually need God to help us. This mostly leads to disaster.

John 2:6-11

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.'

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory and his disciples put their faith in him.

Jesus is not Average

Although it would have still been a miracle if He turned the water into the same wine, Jesus made BETTER wine.

That is just who Jesus is!

He is not an average God and always wants the best for us. .

John 10:10 (Amplified)

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

Matthew 7:9-11

‘Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!’

Luke 15:21-23

The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.’

Don’t settle for water (average).

God is NOT an average God.

Satan lies to us and tells us that we don’t deserve the best.

We must not doubt God or His plan for our lives.

Let us raise the bar.

Although we don’t deserve the best out of our own works, by God’s grace (Jesus dying for us), we can have the best. Just like the son in the story in Luke 15.

God only expects the best from us

John 15:1-2

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.’

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘I tell you the truth, this widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.’

What are we giving God?

God is not happy with average and wants the BEST from us.

This includes:

- Our time
- Our money
- Our relationships
- Our commitment
- Our lives

It is time to raise the bar and give God our Best.

He gave us His all... (John 3:16)