

JOHN 2 BIBLE STUDY

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JOHN 2:1-3 ¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

To what does the "third day" (John 2:1) refer?

It refers to 3 days from the end of the previous "chapter". When originally written in Greek, the Gospel of John and the other books of the Bible were not marked with chapter or verse numbers. That was done much later to make it easier to locate passages.

Where is "Cana" (John 2:1)?

Cana is in the region of Galilee, about 12 miles west of the Sea of Galilee and about 15 miles east of the Mediterranean Sea.

Why do you think Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding?

Mary is probably one of the people organizing the wedding.

What clues are there?

Mary tells the servants what to do. She knows the wine has run out even before the master of the wedding feast, and the lack of wine is of "**concern**"(John 2:4) to her.

Why would she be concerned about the wine running out?

In those days, wine was the only drink other than water. Running out of wine at a wedding feast would be comparable to a wedding reception today running out of all drinks except for tap water, and the Jewish wedding receptions back then lasted for 7 days.

Why would Mary be helping to run the wedding feast in the first place?

It's probably the wedding of a relative, hence the invitation to Jesus as well, and it was customary for the disciples of a rabbi to go everywhere he went.

JOHN 2:4-5 ⁴ Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

What do you think of Jesus' reply to Mary?

While the original Greek for "**Woman**" (John 2:4) isn't derogatory, the fact that Jesus addresses His mother with this term and that the Bible records it are significant.

Jesus must have called her, "mother" growing up. Why does He now call her, "Woman"?

Since His ministry had commenced, Jesus was differentiating Himself - God the Son - from her, a human vessel through whom God chose to come into the world.

If His ministry had commenced, why did Jesus say, "My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4)?

The term, "**my hour**" refers not to His ministry but to his final confrontation with the Jewish leaders that will lead to the cross. The timing of that confrontation had to be precise and Jesus knew that His miracles would draw the attention of the Jewish leaders. We will read other references to His time not yet coming until the final chapters of John.

What did Mary say after hearing from Jesus?

"Whatever He says to you, do it." (John 2:5)

What else does the Bible quote Mary as having said after this?

Nothing. These are the final words that God, the author of the Bible, chose to quote from Mary. So anyone who believes in or prays to Mary for guidance should heed her and do what Jesus, whom the Bible refers to as the Word of God, says to do.

JOHN 2:6-7 ⁶ Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

What do you think about the description of the waterpots?

They are not described simply as "some" waterpots. They are made of "**stone**". There are "**six**" of them. And they are big enough to hold "**twenty or thirty gallons a piece**." (John 2:6) Such visual precision on numbers, size and composition are evidences of the Gospels being eyewitness accounts.

What is meant by, "the manner of purification of the Jews" (John 2:6)?

To be ceremonially clean, Jews had to wash not just their hands before a meal, but their hands and the dishes after every course of the meal. They also had to wash their feet for the reasons mentioned in John chapter 1 (see [John the Baptist](#)), hence the need for large waterpots.