

WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF WINE

John 2:1-12

By Andy Manning

I. INTRODUCTION

1. All of us experience storms. And sometimes when it rains, it pours. Maybe you're experiencing a storm right now: Marriage problems; parenting struggles; financial woes; chronic illness; the death of a loved one; failure; shattered dreams; abandonment; betrayal; moral failure; rejection; persecution; loneliness; depression; the list goes on and on. Today we're going to learn how God wants us to handle the storms of life.

II. TEXT: John 2:1-12

On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus's mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well. 3 When the wine ran out, Jesus's mother told him, "They don't have any wine."

4 "What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come."

5 "Do whatever he tells you," his mother told the servants.

6 Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons.

7 "Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." And they did.

9 When the headwaiter tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom 10 and told him, "Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people are drunk, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now."

11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

12 After this, he went down to Capernaum, together with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples, and they stayed there only a few days.

III. EXPLANATION

1. Jesus and His disciples and His mother were attending a wedding in Cana, which is not far from Nazareth, Jesus' hometown.
2. Mary told Jesus that the wine had run out.

- i. This was a crisis.
 - ii. Wedding celebrations back then would last an entire week, and the entire community was invited. To not attend was offensive. The groom's family were expected to provide plenty of food and drink for the entire week. To run out of food and wine was a huge embarrassment.
 - iii. **John MacArthur** "Such an embarrassing faux pas could have stigmatized the couple and their families for the rest of their lives. It could have left the groom and his family open to a lawsuit by the bride's family for failing to meet their responsibilities."
3. **Verse 4** "What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come."
- i. This seems like a rude way to speak to someone.
 - ii. "Woman" was not rude. In fact, it was very respectful. It is like saying "Ma'am," or "Madam," or "My lady."
 - iii. "My hour has not yet come," probably referred to Jesus fully revealing himself as the Messiah and Son of God. It is possible that Mary was asking Jesus to perform a very loud and noticeable miracle, but Jesus wasn't ready for that yet.
 - iv. "What has this concern of yours to do with me?" This was a common expression in that day. William Barclay paraphrases it like this. It was as if Jesus was saying, "Don't worry; you don't quite understand what is going on; leave things to me, and I will settle them in my own way." Jesus wasn't telling His mother that He wasn't going to help, but apparently He disagreed with Mary about how to help. So, He said, "Just leave it to me."
4. **Verse 5** "Do whatever he tells you."
- i. Mary understood that Jesus wasn't declining to help, so she told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you to do."
 - ii. By the way, that is the best advice that you can ever give to someone. Do whatever Jesus tells you to do. You can't go wrong with that.
5. **Verse 6** "Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons."
- i. This six stone jars were not for drinking water or for foot washing. They were set apart for a religious purpose. Strict Jews had a very important religious tradition of washing their hands not just before every meal, but before every course of the meal.
 - ii. **William Barclay** "First the hand was held upright and the water was poured over it in such a way that it ran right to the wrist; then the hand was held pointing down and the water was poured in such a way that it ran from the wrist to the finger-tips. This was done with each hand in turn; and then each palm was cleansed by rubbing it with the fist of the other hand. The Jewish ceremonial law insisted that this should be done not only at the

beginning of a meal but also between courses. If it was not done the hands were technically unclean.”

iii. “Each contained twenty or thirty gallons.” A total of 120-180 gallons.

6. Jesus told them to fill the jars to the brim with water, so that it was obvious that nothing else was added. Then he told them to take some to the headwaiter.

7. When the headwaiter tasted it, not knowing where it came from, he said, “You’ve saved the best for last!”

IV. ACTIONS TO TAKE WHEN THE WINE RUNS OUT

1. Invite Jesus to the party.

- i. Notice the order: Jesus was invited to the party, then His help was requested. Jesus was there before the crisis hit. That’s important.
- ii. To be fully prepared for a crisis, you need to establish a right relationship with Jesus Christ. You need to trust in Him as your Savior and King. Then He will be an ever-present help in trouble.
- iii. Many people try to do the opposite. They don’t invite Jesus to the party until the party goes south. They want Jesus to help them, but not to lead them. They want His aid, but not His friendship. They want Jesus to supply the wine, but not take charge of the wine. They like Savior Jesus, but not King Jesus. They want to have Jesus on speed-dial, but they want Jesus to have them on His speed-dial. Many people want to call on Jesus for help, but they don’t have a relationship with Him. Or they have been running from Him; and sinning against Him; and ignoring Him, but then when the wine runs out, they want His help.
- iv. That’s like being really cruel to someone, but then asking them for help when you’re in a bind.
- v. Jesus doesn’t typically respond to that kind of prayer. Jesus stands ready to help His servants, not His enemies. He loves to help His obedient children, not His rebellious children. He exalts the humble, but resists the proud.
- vi. Christ is either your friend or your foe. He is either your Lord or your enemy. If you are His enemy, then He will not be available to help you.
- vii. If you want Christ’s help during times of crisis, then you need to first establish a right relationship with Him.
- viii. How do you do this?
 1. Admit you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Admit you deserve hell, and that you can’t save yourself.
 2. Believe in Jesus as God’s provision for your sin.
 3. Call on Jesus to be your Savior and King.

2. Don’t be shocked when the wine will run out.

- i. There’s a popular myth that the more godly you are, the less problems you will have. The more godly you are, the easier, and more comfortable life will

be. The more godly you are, the more healthy, wealthy, and prosperous you will be.

1. Tell that to Joseph who was sold into slavery by his own brothers; false accused of sexual harassment and sent to prison.
 2. Tell that to Job, a very righteous man who lost his children, his servants, his wealth, and even his health.
 3. Tell that to Naomi who lost her husband and two sons and was left all alone.
 4. Tell that to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were thrown into the fiery furnace for standing for God.
 5. Tell that to Daniel, who was thrown into the lion's den because of his commitment to prayer.
 6. Tell that to John the Baptist, who was beheaded for preaching against sin.
 7. Tell that to Stephen, who was stoned to death for preaching the gospel.
 8. Tell that to James, who was beheaded for leading the church in Jerusalem.
 9. Tell that to Paul, who was flogged five times, beaten with rods three times, and stoned because of his witness for Christ. Three times he was shipwrecked. Once he was bitten by a poisonous snake. He was imprisoned and eventually executed.
 10. Tell that to Jesus, who was despised, and rejected, and slandered, and falsely accused, and eventually crucified.
 11. Tell that to my uncle who had a daughter born with spina bifida, and she has never been able to walk, or talk, or swallow, or get married and have children. She is about ten years younger than me.
 12. Tell that to my uncle who is a pastor, and his wife left him and took their two young children because she didn't want to be a pastor's wife. Then he got remarried and had twin boys, but both were born handicapped, and one passed away. Then he had another child, a daughter, who got cancer and has been struggling the past few years.
- ii. Were all these people not godly enough? Did they not have enough faith? Did they not pray hard enough?
 - iii. Or perhaps being a godly Christian does not exempt you from the trials of life.
 - iv. **John 16:33** "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You *will* have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

- v. **James 1:2-3** “2 Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, *whenever* you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”
- vi. Jesus doesn’t promise to keep us out of trouble; he promises to get into trouble with us.
- vii. **Hebrews 13:5** “Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you.”
- viii. Jesus doesn’t promise to keep us out of trouble; he tells us how to handle trials.
- ix. **John 14:1** “Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”
- x. Instead of being surprised by trials, be thankful for the days when you’re not in a crisis, and get prepared for the next trial.
- xi. That’s what we do with hurricanes, right? We’re not shocked when we have a hurricane; we’re thankful when the hurricane turns away from us, and we prepare for them because we know they are going to happen.

3. Ask Jesus to help.

- i. The mother of Jesus set the example for us by going to Jesus for help. That’s how we should handle problems.
- ii. **Psalms 50:15** “Call on me in a day of trouble; I will rescue you, and you will honor me.”
- iii. Often when we face a crisis we don’t pray. Not at first. Not for a while. We go into problem solving mode, but we forget that prayer is the best problem solver.
 1. Abraham’s servant prayed for help to find a wife for Isaac, and God led him straight to Rebekah.
 2. Jacob prayed for rescue from Esau and his four hundred men, and God protected him.
 3. Moses prayed for Miriam’s leprosy, and she was healed.
 4. Joshua prayed for time to slow down, and the sun stood still.
 5. Elijah prayed for a dead child to be raised to life, and God answered.
 6. When the Assyrian army surrounded Jerusalem, King Hezekiah prayed for rescue. God responded by sending an angel in the night who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in the camp, causing the rest of the army to break camp and return home.
 7. When Esther and Mordecai heard about Haman’s plot to exterminate the Jewish people, they fasted and prayed, and God delivered them.
 8. When Jonah found himself in the belly of a fish, he prayed for deliverance, and God rescued him.

9. When Peter was imprisoned, the church prayed for him, and God sent an angel to escort him out of jail.

4. Do whatever He tells you.

- i. Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do.
- ii. This is very similar to what Pharaoh told all of Egypt to do when he put Joseph in charge. **Genesis 41:55** When the whole land of Egypt was stricken with famine, the people cried out to Pharaoh for food. Pharaoh told all Egypt, "Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you."
- iii. This next step is tough. When you are facing a crisis, you must do whatever Jesus tells you to do. You must be obedient.
- iv. Why?
 1. God doesn't bless sin. **Psalms 145:20** "The Lord guards all those who love him, but he destroys the wicked."
 2. God doesn't answer the prayers of sinners. **Proverbs 15:29** "The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous."
 3. God disciplines His children when they go astray. **Hebrews 12:6** "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives."
 4. God's answer is only received by being obedient.
 - a. Consider Naaman (2 Kings 5). Naaman was the commander of the Aramean army, but he had leprosy. Someone told him to go see the prophet Elisha in Israel. Elisha told him to dip himself into the Jordan river seven times and he would be healed. But Naaman thought that was a ridiculous concept. He got angry and left. He expected Elisha to pray over him, and wave his hand over his skin, not dip in some dirty river. But his servants talked some sense into him and convinced him that it was at least worth a try. So, he followed Elisha's instructions and was healed.
 - b. Sometimes we assume that we are smarter than God, so we ignore His instructions and try to solve our problems our way. But that's not the way to handle a crisis. Obey God, no matter how costly, or ridiculous, and then He will come through for you.
- v. Lydia discovered a new verse recently that neither of us had ever seen. It meant so much to us that we printed it out, framed it, and put it on the shelf in the kitchen. This is a good motto for all of us. **Exodus 24:3** "We will do everything that the Lord has commanded."
- vi. Now before we close, let's look at what happens when we rely upon God for help; when we turn to God in times of trouble; when we do things His way instead of our own.

V. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE CAST OUR CARES UPON THE LORD?

1. Jesus cares about you.

- i. Jesus did not ignore Mary or refuse to help.
- ii. **1 Peter 5:7 (MEV)** God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to him.
- iii. Jesus will never ignore you. He will always hear You, and do what's best for you. Sometimes His answer will not be what you want, but it will always be what's best for you.
- iv. One time Moses was discouraged with the people of Israel that God called him to shepherd, and he asked God to kill him. God didn't answer his prayer in the way he expected, but He did answer his prayer by appointing seventy elders to help Moses lead and judge the people.
- v. Jesus cares about you.

2. Jesus meets your needs.

- i. Not only did Jesus hear and sympathize with Mary's request, and with the situation of the bride and groom, but He met their needs by providing all the wine they would need for the wedding celebration. If you rely upon God, He will always meet your needs.
- ii. **Matthew 6:33 (NLT)** "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."

3. Jesus gives you more than you need.

- i. After the six stone jars were filled to the brim, there was a total of 120-180 gallons of wine. That was far more than they would need for the banquet. It provided for the banquet and also provided a generous wedding gift for the bride and groom that would last them some time. God never just meets our needs. When we rely upon Him, He always gives us way more than we need.
 1. Isaac prayed for Rebekah because she was barren, and God gave them twins.
 2. The Hebrews cried out for relief when they were slaves in Egypt, and God sent them a deliverer and gave them a land flowing with milk and honey.
 3. Hannah prayed for a child, and God gave her Samuel, the great judge and prophet.
 4. Solomon prayed for wisdom to lead Israel, but God gave wisdom, riches, and fame.
 5. King Hezekiah was on his death bed and prayed for more time. God gave him fifteen years.

4. Jesus gives you abundant life.

- i. Think about what happened in this story. Jesus turned plain water into the most delicious wine.
- ii. What happens when you rely upon Jesus for your needs? He doesn't just meet your needs. He doesn't just give you more than you need. He gives

you abundant life. He turns your water into wine. He gives you the best possible life.

- iii. We tend to think that the fully-devoted life will rob us of the joy of life. We tend to think that if we rely upon Jesus, if we don't take matters in our own hands, then we will miss out. But that's not true. The best life is the fully-devoted life.
- iv. **John 10:10 (AMP)** "I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)."
- v. Jesus's plan for your life is better than yours. His plan for your life is better than the world's. His plan for your life is better than your friends'. But you have to trust Him. You have to cast your cares upon Him.

5. Jesus glorifies Himself.

- i. What happened after Jesus performed this miracle? **John 2:11** "He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him."
- ii. If Mary would not have relied upon Jesus, she may have found a solution. She may have been able to come up with some way to get more wine. Perhaps some of the neighbors could have helped. But that would not have glorified Jesus. That would not have given Christ a chance to shine; to show off His greatness; to reveal Himself. But because Mary chose to bring her need to Jesus, Jesus did the impossible; he turned water into wine. He glorified Himself, and all those witnessed the miracle came to believe in Him.
- iii. The ultimate purpose of your life is to glorify God. To love Him. To believe in Him. To serve Him. To worship and praise Him.
- iv. His plan is to allow you to face trials, to let the wine run out, so that you will seek Him and find shelter in Him, and then see how awesome He is when He comes to the rescue, and then praise and trust Him more.
- v. When rely upon God, Jesus glorifies Himself and increases our faith and love.

VI. CONCLUSION

- 1. I'm not sure what kind of storm you're going through in your life, but I know how you should handle it. The Bible tells us exactly what to do when the wine runs out.
 - i. Invite Jesus to the party.
 - ii. Don't be shocked when the wine runs out.
 - iii. Ask Jesus to help.
 - iv. Do whatever He tells you.
- 2. God wants to turn your water into wine. He wants to glorify Himself in your trials. Will you turn to Him for help? Will you rely upon Him and trust Him?