

- Rev. Grant Mangold, www.RiversideChurchIowa.com

MOTHER'S MARRIAGE MIRACLE ??

Remember what happens when Jesus attends a wedding in Cana? Well, read John 2:1-12 and tell me what captures YOUR attention. The mother? The marriage? The miracle? Perhaps all three.

You know the old rule of thumb -- the bride and her mother will tussle over who is in charge of a wedding -- but if you're the mother of the groom "*wear beige, show up, and shut up.*" Mary may have been a hostess at the feast. When they ran out of wine, she informed Jesus. Maybe the old saying "*you're not grown up until your mother says so*" was at work here. Even when you're the Son of God.

Was Mary suggesting Jesus and His disciples should skedaddle, or distract the crowd with His teaching? Did she assume it was time to begin His public ministry? Or did God simply use her to prompt a miracle? Jesus respectfully replies with an "idiom" -- a figure of speech, with a gentle rebuke and touch of humor, in verse 4, "***What's this between you and Me? Why do you involve Me?***" (ESV).

Whatever her intention, Jesus surprised everyone. And how fitting at a wedding. It's an echo of the way the book of John begins with the miracle of creation, just like Genesis. The first thing God did after creating the first human beings was to perform the marriage of Adam and Eve. He blessed their union and commanded them to multiply and fill the earth as His personal covenant representatives.

Ministers at weddings quote Jesus in Matthew 19:4 "***Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female? and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.***"

Pres. Lincoln used to ask, "*If you call a tail a leg, how many legs does a dog have?*" The answer: four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it so. As society pretends to "re-define" marriage, we must be clear. We must teach our children the truth. Marriage is not an evolving man-made concept. The Bible teaches marriage is ordained by our Creator at the very beginning of human existence, for the purpose of joining one male and one female together in a family unit in lifetime covenant with God. We are not free to toy around with His divine design! Marriage is the foundation of civilization. When human practice defies divine design, the consequences are unpleasant for everyone.

This brings us to verse 5, "***Do whatever HE tells you.***" The servants poured the water as Jesus instructed. And as the Creator of the universe who breathed out all things into existence, He now just by the force of His will causes ordinary water to turn into fine wine.

What an appropriate miracle at this marriage! The gospel of John presents Jesus as the Creator God come in the flesh, to call men and women to be re-born as children of God. When you put all your trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, He transforms you from a lost selfish sinner into a "***new creation in Christ.***"

What does Jesus tell you to do? His will is like a pyramid composed of the commands of Scripture. The broad bottom level is God's commands for all people. The middle levels include instruction for husbands, wives, children, employees, leaders, rich, poor, etc. The peak is His particular will for individual people. If you begin trusting and obeying Him from the bottom up, you'll know His will for you, step by step.

Verse 10, the wedding host exults, "***you have kept the good wine until now.***" Just like this miracle, the finest things of our Christian life come after its earthly end. Scripture says believers will begin eternity with Jesus in heaven at the "***wedding feast of the Lamb***" of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Verse 11 says through this miracle, "***Jesus manifested His glory,***" just like John 1:14 proclaims. Jesus reveals a marvelous glimpse of Himself for Who He IS, as God come in the flesh to save His people. And this "mother's marriage miracle" strengthens the faith of all who believe in Him.

Three profound take-aways: 1) honor your father & mother, no matter your age; 2) honor God's covenant of marriage, no matter what culture says; and especially 3) "***DO whatever JESUS tells you to do.***" Amen -- and may God bless YOU as you trust & obey!