



## Lesson 8: The God Who Transforms

1. Have you ever wondered if God cares about the “little things” in your life?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

In Episode 8 of *Story Encounters: The Chosen*, we find Jesus attending a wedding feast in a small town with everyday people. It was here, in this unsuspecting place, that Jesus began His public ministry.

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“*Jesus did not begin His ministry by some great work before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem. At a household gathering in a little Galilean village, His power was put forth to add to the joy of a wedding feast. Thus He showed His sympathy with men, and His desire to minister to their happiness... Jesus began the work of reformation by coming into close sympathy with humanity...*”

— ELLEN WHITE, *DESIRE OF AGES*, P. 144.

Jesus doesn’t appear to attend the wedding for any ulterior purposes or motives other than to simply celebrate with the wedding party and its attendees! Jesus was social in nature and enjoyed being with people.

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Have you ever thought about God as enjoying your company? What are some ways you can spend time with God and allow Him to continually reveal Himself to you?

Answer: .....

2. It was in the midst of this wedding celebration that a crisis of hospitality occurred for the wedding party, and Mary came running to Him with a desperate plea.

“*The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus’ mother told him, “They have no more wine.”*

JOHN 2:3, NLT.

Mary trusted Jesus implicitly because she knew Him. She knew “The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion” (Psalm 116:5, NIV). As a result, she had full faith that He could do whatever needed to be done to alleviate the situation and rescue the wedding party from embarrassment.

When was the last time you sought Jesus for help in a situation you had no control over?

Answer: .....

Have you learned to trust Jesus implicitly?

- ☐ Yes. What has helped you trust Him without a doubt?

Answer: .....

- ☐ Not yet. What do you think stops you?

Answer: .....

3. In faith, Mary brought the wedding caterers to Jesus, and He provided a very strange-sounding solution.

“*Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.”*

JOHN 2:7, NKJV.

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4. In this episode, we are faced with two different types of people:
- Thomas—who doubted the logic of the solution.
  - Thomas' partner—who immediately trusted Jesus and set out to do exactly what He asked.

Who are you most like?

- ☐ Thomas
- ☐ Thomas' partner

Most of us fit into one of these two categories—we either seek intellectual answers before we act upon what God tells us, or we immediately act on God's word without understanding it all. God doesn't rebuke us for seeking understanding and having questions (Psalm 119:34). And yet, at the same time, He calls us to trust in His love for us, even when we don't fully understand it all. He promises that as we follow His ways, He will guide us on a safe path.

5. Our own journey of transformation begins when we realize that.

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*What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.”*

JOHN 2:11, NIV.

6. What does the word glory mean?  
We get a clue from Exodus 33 and 34.

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*Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.” And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence... And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness...”*

EXODUS 33:18,19; 34:6, NIV.

The glory of God is basically His character—His goodness, compassion, patience, faithfulness, and grace. So how did this act of transforming water into wine reveal God's glory?

Answer: .....

“*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

JOHN 1:14, NIV.

7. The fact that Jesus began His public ministry with an act of kindness in a seemingly “unimportant” situation, serving only to save a bridegroom’s family from humiliation, shows us just the kind of Savior He is.

What else do you think the wine represented?

Answer: .....

8. When Jesus transformed the water into wine, He also provided a powerful metaphor for His mission as the Messiah. At the last supper, Jesus used wine to symbolize the shedding of His blood at the cross for our sins and the sins of all the world.

“*And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*”

MATTHEW 26:27,28, ESV.

9. At the cross, we see the result of His love for humanity—the culmination of Christ’s mission as His glory, and that of His Father, was revealed once and for all.

“*Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your*

*Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”*

JOHN 17:1-4, NKJV.

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10. From this first public miracle of making wine in an act of kindness, and culminating in His last act of shedding His blood as He laid down His life for us, Jesus' entire life had been a life of service, kindness, sympathy, and love for all of humankind. He made it possible for us to experience close communion with Him on Earth, and also for all of eternity.

The miraculous transformation of water into wine shows us that God is not only concerned about the small details of our lives but also about our eternal salvation so that He can spend eternity enjoying our company. By His love He transforms not just water into wine, but sinners into saints.

And that is how, in answer to Eden's question, a wedding at Cana had everything to do with the liberation of humankind from the attack of Satan.

How would you like to respond?

- ☐ I understand that God cares about my every need.
- ☐ I desire to put all of my trust in Him.
- ☐ I want God to reveal His glory to the world through me.

“...Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

COLOSSIANS 1:27, NKJV.