**Thesis:** Have you ever asked God for a miracle? Have you ever wondered why we don’t always see the same kinds of miracles that we read about in the Bible? Does it make you wonder how God is at work today?

The life of Jesus was marked by many miracles, signs, and wonders. From giving sight to the blind to raising the dead back to life, the power of God flowed through Jesus as his notoriety spread throughout the region of Galilee and beyond.

But these miraculous moments were about more than bringing immediate relief to the recipients. Jesus' miracles were evidence of his divine power, a way to support and affirm his claim to be the Messiah and Son of God.

Today, God is still at work in miraculous ways, using his work in and through His followers to continue the work Jesus started.

**Introduction:** Welcome to The Jesus Podcast, a year of stories showcasing the depth of Christ’s love and the glory of God’s truth. I’m \_\_\_\_, your host from Pray.com. Today, we’re starting a new series all about the miracles of the Messiah. Make sure you follow the podcast as we deep-dive into Jesus's signs and wonders!

**Context:** In our first episode of this season, we’ll take a look at Jesus’ first miracle. This moment was a turning point in the Lord’s ministry. The first public display of his power. Though Jesus was fully man, these supernatural feats remind us that he remained fully God during his time on earth. As we listen to our story, you may be surprised by the setting and circumstances Jesus chose for his first miracle.

Rather than a grand display for thousands to see, we’ll find Jesus during a sweet wedding celebration, allowing only a select few to witness the miracle. But there was a reason for this. Jesus knew that his Father in heaven had a masterful plan, and his time had not yet come to reveal himself in this way to the general public.

So when his own mother brings him news that they have run out of wine, Jesus responds with a heart of care. For a young, newlywed couple, running out of wine at your wedding meant setting up your reputation in the community on the wrong foot. But Jesus cares about what we care about. And though it wasn’t time for others to see a miracle, it was time to begin planting seeds in a select few before his ministry took off with unstoppable force.

**Message:** Jesus’ miracle at the wedding of Cana is a staple of his ministry. There are few people, including those without a religious upbringing, who don’t know about Jesus turning water into wine. Whether we learned about it in Sunday school or from a meme, understanding this miracle gives us intimate insights into the heart of God and the purpose of Jesus’ ministry. What we learn teaches us about who Jesus is and how we should respond to him as disciples. It shows us when, how, and why we should approach Jesus and what we can expect from him when we do.

Traditional Jewish weddings typically began with a ceremony for close family before opening up the festivities to a large party of family and friends. If you’ve ever tried to plan a party, you can likely relate to the issue of running out of food or drinks.

But for us, that might just sound like an inconvenience. To a first-century family, such a thought had the potential to mar your reputation in the community.

So naturally, when it became apparent that the wine had run out, Jesus’ mother, Mary, came to Jesus to let him know the situation. This moment was significant because it was the first time that Mary approached Jesus, not just as his mother but knowing that he was more than her son.

This is noted in Jesus addressing her as “woman”. Now, if I called my mom ‘woman’ - even as an adult with my own kids - I would get slapped.

But put in cultural context, this wasn’t disrespectful. Typically Jesus would have addressed Mary as “Ema” which was a word that communicated proximity and closeness. However, Jesus calling Mary “woman” symbolized a transition in their relationship. Jesus wasn’t just her son, he was her God. She wasn’t bringing this request to her son, she was bringing this request to the messiah.

Mary doesn’t demand Jesus to come and fix the situation. Instead, she simply and humbly makes the problem known to him before promptly instructing the servants to do as he says. What Mary is showing us is how we should approach God with our difficulties. We don’t want to come to God with demands, expecting him to respond in the way that we think is best.

Instead, we should come with humility, sharing our burdens with God and trusting him to respond in the way that he thinks is best. Jesus could have told the servants to explain the problem to the feast master, or taken a moment to address the guests and teach them to be content with what they already had. And if that was his decision, it would have been good because he would have deemed it as such. When we share our struggles with God, we can trust that he’s going to provide in the best way possible for us.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says this in *Matthew 6:25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”*

God knows what we need, even when we don’t. Life is more than the physical, even if it feels like all of our problems are. We should understand that the way Jesus responds to our requests considers not just our physical health but also our mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

It’s also good for us to understand the heart behind Mary’s request. She wasn’t concerned with the guests and their satisfaction. Her eyes were on a bigger problem: The well-being of the bride and groom’s families.

Even though Jesus says it wasn’t yet his time, he knew this was his mother’s intention and blessed her for her love for others. So Jesus decides to help meet the needs brought to him. He begins by instructing the servants to fill six stone jars used for traditional Jewish cleansing ceremonies. You might be asking yourself, “Why not have them fill the wine vessels if he was just going to turn the water into wine?” Though the servants and others witnessing may not have understood, Jesus was making a statement of the change he was bringing. The ceremonial jars are meant to be a representation of the old covenant between God and his people. The Talmud, the central text outlining Jewish law, required that every Jew cleanse their face, hands, and feet every day for the sake of their Creator. When Jesus instructs the servants to fill the cleansing jars, he’s demonstrating that he had come to fulfill the old covenant and give a new one. Not centered on rituals like cleansing with water, but centered on his blood, as represented by the wine that would soon fill the jars.

Though no one else knew who they were obeying, Mary did. We know Mary had her moments of confusion on Jesus’ purpose. We see one such time in Luke 2. As Jesus and his family are traveling back to Nazareth after celebrating the Passover in Jerusalem, a young Jesus wanders off. Mary and Joseph find him in the temple and show a great deal of concern.

Then we read in *Luke 2:49 And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” 50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.*

As Jesus grew, so did Mary’s understanding of the significant role her son would play in the destiny of mankind. What everyone else would come to know over the course of the three years of Jesus’ public ministry, Mary had come to know over thirty years of raising her boy. It was this confidence in Jesus that compelled Mary to instruct the servants to do everything Jesus told them without even knowing herself what he was going to do.

The obedience of the servants to fill the jars to the brim, despite not knowing what was going on, should show us the kind of faith we should have in God’s plan. We might not know exactly what God is doing or why he’s calling us to certain things, but we should respond with complete faith and trust.

*Proverbs 3:5-6 reads “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Our own understanding may get us to the places we want in life, but it will never be enough to get us to where God wants to bring us in life. Whatever plans we can conceive for ourselves pale in comparison to the plans that God has for us. God is always working to bring us to better places, to have a deeper understanding of who he is, grow a stronger relationship with him, and bear fruit that would be unimaginable without him. If we want to see our lives unfold in these ways, we have to lean on him, knowing that he is going to make our paths straight.

This first miracle that Jesus allowed a select few to witness was just this: A means to make their paths straight as he paved the way for all people to be brought back to God. In turning water into wine, Jesus did more than save a wedding. He was unveiling the reality that he had come to save the world.