

Your Issue Makes His List

Submitted by Dr. Anthony Brown

John 2:1-3 (NIV)

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

It might be hard to believe Jesus' turning water into wine at a wedding was His first public miracle. Why? Because in midst of a season and time when there had to be hardships, disappointments, and even persecutions, certainly an irritated bride and her embarrassed parents couldn't have been the priority for Jesus' "miraculous" time and attention. But, scholars agree, it was. It urges me to remind you TODAY, that your issue makes His list.

Amid Covid-19, political turmoil, and worldwide economic challenges, you may be thinking your issue, your test, isn't on The Lord's radar, but I believe this initial miracle suggest that it is. Jesus was on His way to healing Blind Bartimaeus, stopping the stoning of Mary, transforming the life of the woman with the issue of blood, and dying on the cross, but one "stop" would be ensuring the best man's "toast" was well received, from a "taste" perspective.

I caught some reflections from the text that should encourage ALL OF US today. First, Jesus was there. At a wedding? Yes, and He is there with you – at the doctor's office, at the car repair shop, sitting at the traffic light, walking through the supermarket, at your child's school - He's there. Secondly, He knows you're running on empty. Could Jesus' stop by this wedding have been His initial opportunity to remind the world that when you're on empty, He is able to restore and refill. I'm going to interpret it that way and remind you that The Lord knows "you have no more" patience, energy, fight, and He's reminding you that He can restore and refill. And one more point, understand He's able to provide you with more than you need. That's what happened at the wedding, ultimately, "they had more wine than jars." That says to me that Jesus is going to give you an overflow of encouragement and inspiration, and as a result, you'll be able to encourage somebody else. You'll have more than enough.

Today you may encounter someone who's wondering if their issue has made Jesus' list. They may not say it verbally, but they may be "living" through this question. You can testify to the fact that The Lord *is already giving you* "more than enough," and offer them some of your overflow of encouragement and inspiration.