

Wine

Sometimes we are called to do the unexpected—things we didn't think we were ready for. This seemed to be the case at the wedding at Cana when the wine ran out. Jesus' mother, Mary, had a great influence in the situation, telling the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

This was actually a prophetic statement because this is what we are called to do, in our spiritual walk with Jesus—do what He "tells" us. He speaks to us in the silence and in the action of life. Not only did Jesus turn water into wine for the Cana wedding, He is busy in our lives turning struggle into ease and turmoil into peace.

As Christians, who can't remember a time when Jesus' influence made life more manageable and enjoyable. But this takes strong faith, for Jesus speaks through prayers being answered, and, as mentioned earlier, through silent times.

Silence, which is hard to come by in this age of cell phones and 72-inch TVs, is essential for spiritual growth. Recently, I invested an hour in peaceful silence, as the sun rolled across my windowpane and danced into twilight. I found myself so inspired that I emerged from the silence with a refreshing view on life. The silence and peaceful Presence with God spawned an extremely encouraging email to a loved one and two poems expressing the greatness of being alive.

Jesus also "changes water into wine" in how we often experience our prayers being answered affirmatively. A friend emerging from depression after you have prayed and prayed for healing—prayers answered! This is the transformation that Jesus modeled at Cana. He promised always to be with us and His promise is never hollow. In His miracles, Jesus was always giving people exactly what they needed, right in the moment of need. "We have an on-time God," indeed! Jesus said that we would do even greater things than He. Turning water into wine was a miracle, yes, but what about the paramedic saving a man's life through applying CPR? Or what about the pilot who pulled a jet liner out of a spin simply by deploying the landing gear. He saved hundreds of people's lives! These were "wedding at Cana" moments!

Jesus modeled for us that we can all be a part of miracle-making. In our silence prayer-times come inspiration, in our actions come the power, for some, to save lives. And, as we share our spirituality with others, we may even have a hand in saving souls. We have been called to serve, as Jesus served, but in our own ways, with our varied, special gifts. We have heroes all around us, and miracles happen every day! Look at Tiger Woods. After a horrific car accident over a year ago, he has now recuperated so well that he is back on the golf course, playing golf with his son!

The interesting thing about the miracle at Cana—Jesus turning water into wine—is that, without His mother’s nudge, Jesus may have gone farther down the road before performing His first miracle. A mother’s touch made all the difference. And all of us have been influenced by spiritual teachers, and by the power of God, to learn how to pray. Fervent prayer and consistent positive thoughts and actions, with Jesus as our guide, can produce miracles!

Jesus may not have been “ready” for his first miracle—just as we may not be “ready” for God’s healing touch to change our lives for the better. But we never know when Jesus will turn water into wine within us or others. When Jesus said, “The Kingdom of God is at hand,” this may well be what He was talking about—our being prepared to “wait on Jesus,” and eventually see the miracles He brings to us in our daily lives.