

# Sermon on Do Whatever Jesus Tells You

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## Text:

**John 2:1-11** On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,<sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."<sup>4</sup> "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,<sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside<sup>10</sup> and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."<sup>11</sup> This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

## 1 Introduction

Weddings are joyful and exciting occasions. It is a time to celebrate the beginning of a life's journey of two people. It is a time full of hope and expectation for a great and blessed future; a future though uncertain yet promising. The groom looks handsome and the bride looks like the most beautiful girl in the world. We make sure the church service befits the joyous and beautiful occasion and the reception no doubt becomes a joyous celebration for the couple, friends, and family. Then there is the great time of the honeymoon which is a time of bliss for the newly married couple. His new wife is perfect and lovely and her new husband is handsome and resourceful.

When they return from the honeymoon they begin to live the life that they had dreamed about and expected all along for their marriage. Somehow, sooner or later, the statistics predict (50% of new marriages end up in divorce) that they will begin to fight over trivial things. He will

begin to see faults in her that did not exist before. She will also see disturbing things in him that were not there before. If they do nothing about it, gradually the hope, the expectation, the excitement will all disappear and life will become bland. An exciting, hopeful, blissful and promising life together has now become a hopeless, horrific and empty life together. What can you do?

Getting a visa to America is one of the most exciting and joyful occasions a Ghanaian can experience. That moment is pivotal in your life and treasured. It marks the beginning of a life full of hope and expectation for a great and blessed future; a future though uncertain yet promising. When you arrive in the USA you begin this life in earnest. You get a job and/or get an education, you get your own apartment, and you get your own car. Life is good! Then it begins to happen. Your job becomes unstable, you learn about layoffs, your boss hates you, you barely make ends meet, and your car gives you lots of trouble. You are so mired in debt, bad credit, and other problems that life becomes hopeless, horrific and empty. What can you do?

## **2 If your joy runs out tell Jesus**

### **2.1 Mary told Jesus when the joy ran out of the wedding**

The text begins with the account of the Cana wedding as taking place on the third day. The first day is the day Andrew, the unnamed disciple, and Peter became Jesus' disciples. The second day was when Philip and Nathanael become disciples. Then on the third day, Jesus took these disciples to a wedding in Cana to which his mother had also been invited. The wedding couple must have been close relatives or friends of Jesus' family. Being a typical Jewish wedding it will take place over a one week period with various festivities. My former boss who is Indian recently organized a wedding for his daughter. There were ceremonies and festivities on three different continents over a period of time. And so, this was the case in the wedding at Cana.

The wine which in our modern case will be called refreshments was an important and integral part of the celebration. So, if the refreshments run out in the course of the week-long celebration that was a disaster for the couple and his family. And this is exactly what happened in the wedding at Cana. The family did not know what to do. Disaster loomed and disgrace was at the door. Mary realizing the severity of the situation reported it to Jesus. Jesus then told his mother that this is not their problem because they are not the people organizing the wedding. But Mary

had faith that what man could not do nothing about Jesus could do something about and she knew that Jesus was compassionate enough that he would do something about it.

## **2.2 Go tell Jesus about your troubled situation**

When the joy runs out of your life, you have got to do what Mary did. Go tell Jesus your troubles. “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7) Sometimes we don’t think certain problems are meant for Jesus to solve. You think this problem is something little. You have a pimple in your face. Why disturb the person who is busy holding the whole world in his arms with a pimple of a problem. But what you don’t know is that perhaps it is the root of a bigger problem and you need Jesus to nip it in the bud. Jesus has to become the first resort and not the last resort. We have something we say in industry, when all else fails read the manual. We tend to treat our problems that way. When we have tried everything else and when all else has failed then we ring Jesus. Jesus should not just be our 9-1-1 but Jesus should be our 4-1-1. Jesus should be our close friend who we tell everything, including the most trivial ones. “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us-- whatever we ask-- we know that we have what we asked of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

Sometimes you think you’ve been so bad that Jesus will not care. But he cares, because you are his child. Tell him what you’ve done wrong, tell him you’re sorry and he’ll forgive you and forget it. He wants to hear your troubles and that is why he said in **Matthew 11:28**, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

## **3 You must do whatever Jesus tells you**

### **3.1 Obey no matter how ridiculous the command appears**

Mary told the servants, “do whatever he tells you.” Mary may have suspected that what his son will tell the servants to do to solve the problem may appear nonsensical and so he emphasized, “do whatever he tells you.” Sometimes when we bring our problems to him and he tells us what we should do, we don’t do it. Someone came to see me about a problem that I diagnosed to be spiritual. I told him to repent of his syncretistic pagan idolatry, immerse herself in the Bible, fast and pray, and attend church prayers and services regularly. She did none of this. She expected

me to give her some special oil, cream, handkerchief or something for her problem. She did not do what the Lord used me to tell her to do. When you bring your problem to the Lord you must “do whatever he tells you.”

### **3.2 Naaman had to obey a seemingly ridiculous command**

“Do whatever” means anything and everything. It means whether it makes sense or not, whether it is nice or not, whether it is comfortable or not, or whether it is beneath your status. Jesus told the servants to fill six stone water jars with water. This command may have appeared ridiculous. They need wine and he asks them to fetch water. What does water have to do with wine? But water has everything to do with a lifeless and hopeless situation. Water is the essence of life and what a lifeless and hopeless situation needed was water. The servants obeyed Jesus, however, not knowing the significance of the water but in obedience to Mary’s command: “Do whatever he tells you.”

Such was the case also with Naaman. As commander of the army of Aram, his stature and status was like that of General Colin Power, as chairman of the Joint Chief of Staffs of the United States of America. Naaman contracted leprosy. His servant girl told him “go tell it to God.” She told him further when you go “do whatever he tells you.” Naaman found his way to Elisha in Israel for healing. He told his problem to Elisha. Elisha told him to go dip himself seven times in the Jordan River. It is as if General Colin Powell came to Ghana from USA with a sickness that all the medical technology and expertise of the USA could not handle. When he comes to Ghana he is asked to go dip himself seven times in the Korle Lagoon. How ridiculous, how nonsensical!

But to get his healing, Gehazi told Naaman, “Do whatever he tells you and you will be healed.” When you come to Jesus you must do whatever he tells you and you will be restored to your destined situation, you will receive your breakthrough.

### **3.3 God works in the milieu of your obedience**

You must obey God to receive your breakthrough. Breakthrough requires obedience. God works through obedience. God worked through the obedience of Abraham in the near-sacrifice of Isaac and gave Abraham great blessings. God worked through the obedience of Moses and

established the great nation of Israel. God worked through the obedience of David and made Israel a prosperous and revered nation. God worked through the eventual obedience of Naaman and healed him of the incurable leprosy. God worked through countless others and gave them their breakthroughs.

## **4 If you do what he tells you, Jesus will transform your situation**

### **4.1 Just as the water became wine your troubled situation will become joyful**

The servants at the wedding obeyed three commands of Jesus: (1) fill the jars, (2) draw water from the jars, and (3) take the water to the master of ceremonies (MC). Each act of obedience was a test of their faith but they succeeded because they didn't analyze the command for reasonableness. Does it make sense today as it did when the Bible was written? Is the right interpretation? They followed Mary's advice: "Do whatever he tells you." O that we would do whatever the Bible tells us and do whatever God's ministers tell us without second-guessing them. When they obeyed the water became wine.

When joy has left your life, your life has become empty you need to tell it to Jesus. He will tell you what to do. He will tell you something like, "you have come to me because you are thirsty. Come and drink water from me and streams of living water will flow from you." If you "do whatever he tells you" then he will turn the water of your life into wine. Your fear will become festivities, your gloom will turn to giggling, your heartaches will give way to happiness, your sorrows will turn to singing, your tests will become testimonies, and your troubles will become triumphs.

### **4.2 Just as stone jars meant for water now held wine your useless life will hold blessings**

Stone jars were for holding water and not wine. Wine was meant to be held in goat skin containers called wineskins. The wine that ran out was in wineskins and so there were empty wineskins at the wedding. So, Jesus could have asked them to fill the wineskins with water but he chose stone jars instead. He chose what was not worthy to hold a treasure such as wine. This is how God works. That is why the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

Your family and friends considered you worthless. Your schoolmates considered you most likely to fail in life. Your friends saw you as a person with no future. Yet Jesus is looking to transform the worthless into the worthy, the weak into the strong, the foolish into the wise, the poor into the rich, and famished into the nourished. Because of Jesus, life that is not respected or incapable of a future can now hold the greatest promise, prosperity and blessings.

## **5 Everyone will marvel at what happened to you**

When the MC tasted the miracle wine he marveled. Why the best wine now? How can it be? Where did it come from? In the same way, when you do whatever Jesus tells you, he will transform your life so much so that everyone will marvel. Is that really you? – The one who we knew as worthless, the one we knew will definitely fail, the one we knew had no future. How can it be? Where did it come from? How is it that you have received so many blessings? What did you do to deserve it? Then you will answer them that all you did was do whatever Jesus told you. You did anything and everything he told you. You did just as he told you.

## **6 Conclusion**

If the joy has run out of your life go tell Jesus about your troubled situation. You must do whatever Jesus tells you. Obey no matter how ridiculous the command appears. Naaman had to obey a seemingly ridiculous command to receive his breakthrough. This is because God works in the milieu of your obedience. If you do what Jesus tells you, he will transform your situation. Just as the water became wine your troubled situation will become joyful. Just as stone jars meant for water now held wine your useless life will hold blessings. Everyone will marvel at what happened to you.