

## **Sermon Draft**

**Text: John 2:1–11**

**Sermon: Give it and forget it**

Ron Popeil is famous for his many inventions. He and his company, Ronco have given us the Popeil's Pocket Fisherman, Mr. Microphone, and the Veg-O-Matic. But one of his best inventions was his rotisserie oven. Along with that invention, he made the infomercial that gave us the famous slogan "Set it and forget it!" You put the food in. You set the oven. You walk away. No muss. No fuss. Set it and forget it.

In our text from the Gospel of John, Mary reminds us to do the same. She comes to Jesus and asks for help. Although his reply sounds rather harsh, Mary is not dismayed. Mary had confidence in Jesus. She knew that he would take care of the situation, not because she asked but because he is gracious. Mary knew that the situation was saved when it was committed to Jesus. Mary knew that we can commit our troubles to Jesus, knowing He will take care of them.

The situation confronting Jesus was pretty simple. He was at a wedding, and they ran out of wine. At the least, this would have been a very embarrassing, maybe even humiliating situation. The stigma from this situation would last for some time and could even result in a lawsuit. So, the problem had to be dealt with.

Mary apparently knew the family because she came to Jesus with the problem. She told him, ***“They have no wine”*** (v 3). Have you ever wondered what Mary expected Jesus to do about this situation. Did she want him to send his disciples out to buy more wine? Was she just telling him because she felt bad for the couple? What, if anything, did Mary want Jesus to do about it? What was she expecting? John tells us that this was Jesus’ first “sign.” It’s not like Jesus was known as someone who did miracles growing up. Luke 2 says that Jesus grew up like any other child and was obedient to his parents. When Jesus went to Nazareth in Mark 6, the people wondered when he had received the power to do miracles, for he hadn’t evidenced any miracle power before. So why tell Jesus about this couple being out of wine?

We may not know what she wanted Jesus to do or what she expected him to do, but his response had to be disappointing. ***“Woman,” he said, “what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come”*** (v 4). “Woman” sounds a lot harsher to our ears than it would have to Mary’s, but it’s hardly endearing. If anything, it is extremely formal if polite. The rest of Jesus’ answer points out that he had a different interest and a different purpose in mind than she did. He definitely wanted her to know that their relationship was no longer that of mother and son; it was now that of Lord and disciple.

Which brings us to one of the greatest *non sequiturs* in the Bible. A *non sequitur* is a statement, conclusion, or reply that has nothing to do with the previous statement or one that doesn’t quite fit. Like two puzzle pieces that don’t go together, it’s a reply that doesn’t fit the question or an action that doesn’t go with what happened before.

Mary comes to Jesus with the news that the family is out of wine. Jesus tells her that his hour has not yet come. He makes it clear that this isn’t his issue.

One would think that Mary would walk away, perhaps a bit disappointed, but trying to figure out a way around this situation. But she doesn't. Instead she tells the servants, "***Do whatever he tells you***" (v 5). Considering what Jesus had just said to Mary, what would make her think he would tell them anything? Her actions just don't follow from what Jesus just said. It seems like a huge *non sequitur*.

Despite Jesus' rather cold response, Mary had faith in her Son. Going to the servants, she tells them to do whatever Jesus says. Mary had incredible faith in her Son. Even though Jesus had seemingly rebuffed Mary, she knew that he would answer her request. She committed the situation to Jesus, and she knew that he would take care of it.

Mary's faith was rewarded. Jesus not only took care of the situation, but he did so with gusto. Filling six jars with 180 gallons of water, Jesus changed it into wine. And this was no cheap box wine, this was an excellent wine, the best wine.

Jesus gave the couple a gift of extreme value, and if there happened to be any left following the wedding, they could sell it and have a good financial cushion to begin their married life.

Have you ever felt like Mary? You cry out to God, but it seems as if he isn't listening or helping? Have you ever felt as if your prayers are going as far as the ceiling in the room and they're getting stuck there? That's a pretty common feeling. In Psalm 6, David says that he is in great anguish and is flooding his bed with tears. He cries out, "***But you, O Lord—how long?***" (Psalm 6:3). The disciples were scared to death in a storm at sea while Jesus was in the boat sleeping. They cried out, "***Lord, don't you care if we drown?***" St. Paul prayed to the Lord three times to take away his thorn in the flesh, but the Lord refused. We all have times when we cry to the Lord for relief, but it just seems as if God doesn't answer. Indeed, there are times when we feel like Mary: we've made a request to God but have been rebuffed.

The reality is that God hears our prayers and he answers them. We can commit our problems to Jesus, knowing that he will take care of them. David knew that. In Psalm 6, right after he complains about his terrible weeping, he says, ***“The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer”*** (Psalm 6:9). It didn’t look as if God was answering his prayer, but David knew he would.

It might not be in the way we hope or expect, but he will do it. Look at Mary: do you think she expected Jesus to create water from wine? When the disciples cried out to Jesus for help, did they expect him to quiet the sea? I don’t think so. They were astonished at what he did. I’m sure Paul didn’t expect the answer he received, ***“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”*** (2 Corinthians 12:9). Yet that answer allowed him to rejoice in his sufferings and hardships.

We can commit our situations, give our problems, our worries our cares to Jesus and forget them knowing he will answer. How do we know? Because of his hour. Jesus’ “hour” is his time of suffering.

Now this, at the wedding of Cana in Galilee, is not his hour. But in John 12, when the Greeks come to meet Jesus, he says, ***“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified”*** (12:23). Jesus’ hour is his Passion and his cross.

The cross of Jesus is his promise and guarantee that he will hear and answer our prayers. He has borne our sin. He has borne our punishment. He died in our place. He rose again for us. He has made us his own. He did all of that even though we do not deserve a bit of it.

Given all that Christ has done for us, does it make any sense that he would ignore our pleas now? No. As Paul points out in Romans 8:32, ***“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”*** Christ is the promise and the guarantee that God will hear our prayer. His death and resurrection allow us to commit our cares to him knowing that he will take care of them.

One of Cindy's favorite appliances is her crock pot. She puts in all the ingredients for a good stew or roast, then she turns it on and walks away. When we get home in the evening, the meal is ready to go. She sets it and forgets it.

Jesus calls us to do the same. We have many cares and worries in life. Most of them are beyond our control. Mary was worried about this family, but she knew there was nothing she could do. She committed the situation to Jesus. She asked him to take care of it. Even though his answer seemed harsh, she had confidence in the grace of her Lord. She committed the situation to him, knowing he would take care of it.

Commit your cares and worries to the Lord. He will take care of them. He gave his life for you. He rose from the dead. He has baptized you in his name. You are his. He will take care of you.

Amen