



17 JANUARY 2016: Jesus cares about the details of our lives (John 2:1-11)

Just after Jesus had called his first disciples to follow him, they were all invited to a wedding feast in the village of Cana. At this stage the disciples probably didn't know Jesus very well, so we can imagine them sitting around in the sun, chatting and getting to know each other more – a bit like being in a new class at school, where you gradually make new friends.

In those days weddings went on for about 7 days! First the bridegroom would go along in a procession to the bride's house. There, after a feast, the ceremony would take place and then people would celebrate for the next 6 days!!! It was the bridegroom's job to provide enough food and wine. We don't know whose wedding this was, but it was nearly a disaster! The wine ran out and there was nothing to drink! How embarrassing!

Mary seems to have been helping at the wedding and she came to Jesus, hoping that he might be able to help. But Jesus reminded her that he had to work according to God's timetable now, not according to hers. Mary, however, seems to have been sure that he would do something so she told the servants to do whatever he asked.

And when the time was right, Jesus told the servants to fill 6 huge containers with water. (Each jar would hold more than 75 litres.) Then he told them to take a sample of the drink to the steward in charge of the wedding to let him taste it. Imagine how stupid the servants must have felt, thinking they were taking the steward water to taste! But, you know what happened! Yes, the water had turned into wine – and not just wine, but excellent wine! Imagine how relieved the bridegroom must have been.

This was the first miracle Jesus did. It seems a bit weird that this important event took place at some minor wedding in a tiny village, doesn't it? But doesn't it prove that Jesus was like us – socialising, going to weddings, wanting to help out? He wasn't just a solemn preacher!

Of course, whether you believe this story or not depends on what you believe about Jesus. If he was just another teacher, then the miracle is probably an exaggeration. But I believe Jesus is God, and that He who made the water could also make wine.

This was a "sign" by which Jesus "revealed his glory". In other words, he was showing his disciples – and us - that he wasn't just another teacher, as Islam suggests. He was the miracle working Son of God who cared so much that he provided wine for a wedding!

So we can start this year knowing that Jesus will provide for us in our good times and bad times. He may not do miracles like this for us, but we would be very silly to start 2016 without him. Remember his actions and his timing will be perfect.

Memory verse: Jesus revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him (John 2:11)