

Title: Miracle Worker, Part 1 (John 2:1-10)

Introduction: So once my Dad missed a wedding ceremony he was suppose to officiate. I was in high school and it was in the summer. So prime wedding season, right? In fact, I remember a guy on my baseball team had a sister getting married around this time too. Now the days leading up to this wedding my Dad was out of town because he had gone back to school to get his doctorate. And one of the requirements of the program was spending a week on campus in Louisville during the summer. So even though he wasn't going to get back until late the night before, my Dad still wanted to be a part of this wedding. Because it was the daughter of some friends. So he told them he'd still do it as long as they were okay with him missing the rehearsal and just coming to the wedding. And they said yeah, yeah that's fine. So the day before, my Dad drove the six hours from Louisville to Atlanta and then woke up the next day ready to get this coupled hitched. So that afternoon my dad along with my mom get in their car and make their way to the wedding venue. And when they pull into the parking lot, they expect the place to be packed, right? **But barely any cars are there.** So they're a bit confused. But they go ahead and park. And as they're getting out of the car, they see someone who's daughter was in the wedding. So they're like, "Hey, where is everyone?" And the person looks at them and says, "Gone. The ceremony is over." **And see, that was the moment when my Dad realized he had really messed up.** Because he had gotten the time of this wedding wrong. My mom had spent so much talking to that guy's mom I played baseball with who's sister was also getting married, that **she confused the times of the two weddings.** And since my mom often keeps their schedule, she had the wrong time in her head but didn't bother to check it with the invitation **until it was too late.** Of course when this happened my parents felt horrible. But not that horrible because they still **went to the reception.** Yep. Those people raised me. Now surprisingly the couple was actually very understanding. The person who did the rehearsal the night before was able to step in to do the ceremony so a disaster was avoided. But let's be real. There is no way this bride or her family will ever forget what happened. **Because something went terribly wrong on the most important day of her life. Something that had the potential to ruin everything.**

Transition: And in our passage tonight, were going to look at another wedding where something goes terribly wrong. Something that also has the potential to ruin everything. So let's look at this story in John 2 to find out what it teaches us about our God who's a miracle worker.

[1] On the third day there was a **wedding** at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. [2] Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

Explanation: So this wedding has a few people at it that we know, right? Like Jesus, his disciples, and his mother Mary. **Now it's important to know weddings back then were a lot different than weddings today.** Instead of lasting a few hours, they could last as long as a week. And instead of the bride's parents paying for everything, that was actually the grooms job. So fellas, be thankful all you got to stress about is an engagement ring, amirite? So as Jesus and his disciples are participating in this weeklong celebration, Mary all of sudden comes to Jesus in a panic because there's a bit of problem.

[3] When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, **"They have no wine."**

Explanation: Now when we read this verse, if we're honest there's a bit of a disconnect, isn't there? Because we don't really feel the weight of this situation. I mean running out of wine at a wedding today isn't a big deal at all. Because a lot of weddings don't even offer it. **But in this culture, what's happening here is actually a HUGE deal and DEFINITELY a reason for someone like Mary to freak out.**

So to bridge the cultural gap between now and then, imagine you're at a friend's wedding next weekend. And as you're sitting down at the reception waiting to eat, someone comes up to your table and says they heard some bad news. The father of the bride booked the caterer for the wrong day. In his excitement, he confused the day of the couple's wedding with the day of their engagement a year earlier. **Which means the food won't show up for another two weeks.** So as they're telling you this, you look over and see the father of the bride panicking across the room. Because there are 300 hungry people here who were all promised a four course meal on the invitation. Who all made dinner plans around this wedding. But now because he messed up, there isn't anything food for them to eat. **Guys, that's the significance of the situation Mary brings to Jesus. But in this story its not the father of the bride who's to blame for what's happening, it's the groom.** Remember, he's the one responsible for providing everything. Including the wine. Now we aren't told how or why this happens. Maybe the groom didn't have the money to throw the type of wedding his bride wanted but he didn't have the heart to tell her. Or maybe he did a poor job planning for the amount of people who came. **We don't know. But what we do know is this groom messed up. And in this moment, no doubt he feels the weight of his mistake.** Because he's about to **let down** the person he just vowed to spend the rest of his life with. **So much so, that her family might actually sue him for allowing something as shameful as this to happen to her.**

So as you can see, what's happening in this one verse is really a big deal, isn't it? Running out of wine at a wedding is a serious problem. **So Mary has come to Jesus because this groom failed his bride by not doing what all grooms are suppose to do. And because of his mistake, he's starting off his marriage by letting her down.**

Personal Connection: And see, what's going on in the background of this story so often happens in the forefront of our lives, doesn't it? **Like this guy, we mess up. And we know what it's like to let people down because we mess up.**

(1) Maybe it was when a friend begged us for weeks to go see that movie on opening night with them. And even though we said we would, when it came time to go, we backed out. And we found out later because we did, they went alone.

(2) Or maybe it was when someone we're with planned a really big dinner date. And even though they went out of their way to take us to our favorite restaurant, we weren't really feeling it. Because a test we have in the morning put us in a stressed out mood. So they didn't feel appreciated at all for this amazing night they planned just for us. **(3) Or maybe it was when our parents** let us go to that concert in Birmingham with a group of friends. And even though they trusted us, while we were there we broke that trust. We made some unwise decisions. And now they're not mad, they're just really disappointed in us. **We**

all get this, don't we? Like this groom, we know what it's like to let a person down because we did something. Something we can't take back.

And see, that's what makes letting someone down so disheartening. You can't take it back. Because by the time you realize you let them down, it's too late to change what you've done, right? My Dad didn't realize he let that bride and groom down until after the ceremony. And we don't realize we let our boyfriend or girlfriend down until after our date night is over and they're giving us the silent treatment. In both situations, we find out when it's too late to change. **Because You only realize you let someone down when it's too late.**

When the damage has already been done. When they're already hurting. **And here's why this is big.** Because if we look at our relationships that are strained or damaged or even broken, **it's because someone let someone else down.** Someone failed to do what someone else expected them to do. And when that person is us, so often we wish we could just go back and change what we did. We wish we could go back and make a different decision. The decision to show up or the decision to express how much we appreciated that person or the decision to be wise in how we acted that night. But the problem is we can't.

Because it's too late. We've already hurt them. They already feel betrayed. We've already made a mess. We already let them down and now it's too late for us to take it back.

Transition: So as the groom in our story sits at his wedding celebration, this is where he finds himself. **Living in a “too late” moment.** He’s messed up and now it’s too late for him to take it back. And Mary knows this. That’s why she needs Jesus to help him. And when she asks Jesus to, this is how he answers.

[4] And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Explanation: So Jesus responds to his mom by basically saying to her “Why are you asking me get involved with this?” And honestly, he seems to be a little annoyed at her for taking advantage of him here. **But he still agrees to help.** And the servants are told to do what he says. Now we know what’s going to happen next, but I don’t think Mary did. I think she expected him to help. But not to perform a miracle. Because based on verse 11, **it seems Jesus had never done one before.** So Mary just wants her oldest son to make a “too late” moment a little bit better the groom. **Who at this point will gladly take any help he can get, right?** Because I’m sure as the one responsible for this disaster, the groom is keeping up with and watching everything that’s going on. Praying Jesus can do something to get him out of this mess.

[6] Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. [7] Jesus said to the servants, “**Fill the jars with water.**” And they filled them up to the brim.

Explanation: Now if you’re the groom and you see Jesus fill these six huge jars normally used for religious purposes with water, it wouldn’t be very encouraging. Because your problem is that you desperately need more wine, not more water. Then to make this stressed out groom even more nervous, Jesus does this next.

[8] And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to **the master of the feast.**” So they took it.

Explanation: Oh this is big. Because Jesus tells the servants to take some of the water in these jars to a very important person. Someone called the **master of the feast.** Whose job was to make sure the wedding celebration ran smoothly. **So someone the groom always wants to impress, right?** Because he could easily tell everyone how much this guy messed up if he doesn’t like what he’s about to taste. So imagine how anxious you would be if you were this groom, standing there. Watching this very significant person take a sip of this drink that you saw is just water. But as he does, something happens that this groom never saw coming.

[9] When the master of the feast tasted **the water now become wine**, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the **bridegroom** [10] and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. **But you have kept the good wine until now.**”

Explanation: This is incredible. As the groom, when you were called over, you expected to be ridiculed. To be shamed in front of everyone because you ran out of wine. **Because you failed to do what grooms always do.** But instead, you get praised. You get applauded **for doing what grooms never do.** Although this guy had really messed up, his wedding celebration didn't end the way he thought it would. **Because Jesus stepped in.** Because Jesus showed up in his “too late” moment, all of his embarrassment, shame, and failure was instantly gone. **In a single moment Jesus undid what this groom had done. He changed what was unchangeable.** So although this guy had let his bride down, a disaster was avoided because **Jesus redeemed his mess.** Jesus performed a miracle.

And if you look through the pages of Scripture, so often that's what a miracles is. **God redeeming a mess. We see it everywhere. (1)** Like the time when God redeemed the mess that a disease brought a blind man by giving him sight. **(2)** Or when God redeemed the mess that a demon brought into the life of a child by casting it out. **(3)** Or when God redeemed the mess that sin brought into this world by resurrecting Jesus from the grave. **And one thing that's crazy about miracles. One thing so many of them have in common. They happen in “too late” moments.** The wine was already out. The man was already blind. And Jesus was already dead for three days. But in all these situations, when it seemed like it was too late, God showed up and did something miraculous.

And see, that's something all of us we can take away from this story. **Because what this means for you tonight is if you've messed up.** Like really messed up. And because of that, you've let someone who means a lot to you down. Like your parents or that person you use to date or a sibling you use to be close with or a friend who now wants nothing to with you or even yourself. **If that's where you are tonight, please know there is still hope. Because Jesus can still redeem your mess.** He can still show up and perform a miracle. So even if right now you find yourself in a “too late” moment. Even if it seem like it's over and there's no way they'll ever get past what you did to them. And even if, like Mary, you've never seen Jesus do a miracle before, he can still redeem your mess. He can still do a miracle to change what seems unchangeable. It's not too late. **Because this story shows us that Miracles live in “too late” moments.**

Series Connection: And since this is where miracle live, this where we're going to be in this series. **In the "too late" moments of our lives.** So that means throughout this series we're going to talk about our "too late" moments. **Even ones that are much different than those we talked about tonight.** And as we do, we're going to look at the miracles of Jesus to see what they can teach us in those times when we're waiting and praying for God to do something big. To change what's unchangeable. To redeem a mess. **To be our miracle-worker.**

Challenge: But tonight, if you find yourself in a "too late" moment that's like the one in our story. This place where you can't take back something you really regret doing. **My challenge for you is to ask for a miracle.** Ask Jesus to redeem your mess. Now if you're like me, this isn't something you do often. If ever, right? We don't usually tap into this amazing resource. But let's change that in this series. And lets start tonight. So right now ask Jesus to show up in a strained or damaged or broken relationship. Ask him to undo what you've done. Ask him to bring healing where someone's hurting. **Ask him for a miracle.**