

THE INVITATION

Text: John 2:1-11

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On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." ⁴ Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." ⁶ Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰ And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" ¹¹ This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and ¹² manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

The marriage at Cana is a very common and short story but there is a lot of lessons for us today. We are going to view the marriage as our individual life. In our life, we sometimes lack one thing or the other. As you are hearing this message, you know exactly what your life is lacking.

- A. The marriage was lacking something – wine **vs3** *³ And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."* today everyone of us is lacking one thing or the other. Just like the marriage of Cana.

It is a tradition that men drink the best wine at the beginning of the feast but this time around it was not enough to go round and the party just started. It will be a thing of shame and disgrace that people were invited and drinks could not go round.

I strongly believe that the couple were seriously troubled were they are seated. It is a normal reaction, we sometimes freak out when what we are lacking is not forth coming. Freaking out does not solve the problem thus the couple had to make a move to solve their problems.

- B. They went to meet Mary (The mother of Jesus) – why did they decide to meet Mary while Jesus was at the party? I believe that they met Mary so that Mary could help them talk to her son Jesus. This simply imply that they were closer to Mary than Jesus Christ.

We sometimes behave like this, instead of meeting Jesus we tends to put our hope in human. The truth is that human cannot solve our problems but only God can.

What is your relationship with God?

Your relationship with God determine where you first take your problems/challenges to.

NOTE: your position in church is not your relationship with God, you can have a title e.g Bishop, usher, deacon etc and yet no relationship with God.

When you have a relationship with God even your enemies will favour you. When you have a relationship with God He will be concerned about you.

- C. *Vs 5⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”* Mary finally took the challenge to Jesus Christ – Mary could not solve the problem thus she presented it to Jesus on behalf of the couple. We should learn to present other people’s challenge before God, there are times brethren asked us to pray for them and we just overlooked it and when we come to God we just present only our challenges forgetting others.

Mary did not overlook the couples request rather she was concerned and she brought the couple request before Christ.

One thing I have noticed among some brethren is that when they have challenges, they want everybody to be concern but when others have challenges it is none of their business this is a very bad character. This challenges might be finance, prayer, food, counselling etc. how will you feel when brethren leave you lonely in your challenges?

N.B: One possible factor that can lead to that is poor fellowship with each other. From the story so far the couple had a relationship with Mary and that was why she was invited, that was why Mary showed concern. We should learn to relate with brethren.

- D. Jesus gave an instruction *Vs 7⁷ Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.* – There is always an instruction for us to follow in other for God to intervene in our situation. Until we follow God’s instruction it’s then God will fully perform His miracle. God has given us instruction on everything. The men obeyed Christ instruction and Jesus performed His miracle.
- E. Be patient: I believe the couple must have asked countless of questions like “why the delay?” Jesus was present in the party, He has the power but yet there were some delay in the process. We should learn to be patient because some times when God is

silent He is working out solutions for us but we may not understand. Thus we must learn to remain faithful like Job, so that we can get our blessings from God at the end. I believe the couple were worried but they were patient with Christ.

- F. Invite Christ into your life: we sometimes think that once we are baptized that is all, No. When the Holy Spirit leaves us, we no longer have relationship with God anymore, but we can build that relationship again by destroying whatever sin that is bringing us down then you can invite Christ into your life.

One thing that was so special in the marriage was that they invited Jesus Christ, another thing is that they did not invite Christ to the marriage because there was trouble, they invited Him because it was necessary, and they value him.

1. Couple should learn to invite Christ into their marriages.
2. Singles should invite Christ into their lives
3. We should not invite Jesus Christ only when there are troubles in our lives.

It is a very funny character Christian display. You will see a brother that does not fast, pray, attend church services etc. suddenly will start coming reasons because he is longing for solution to his challenges and after the challenge is over he will start using his Job, shop etc. as excuses for not coming regularly.

Conclusion: we should not invite Christ only when things are rosy, we should not invite Christ only when we have challenges. Let Christ be part of our lives even when things are good or bad for us. Let God still be God. We should not worship Him because we are expecting something good from Him.