



SERMON GUIDE

March 8, 2026

for Groups & Personal Reflection

Shocking! | [John 2:1-11](#)

READ

- Read [John 2:1-11](#) aloud. As you read, pay attention to specific words or phrases that stand out. Pause and sit with the passage for a moment (don't rush!). Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time in the Word.
- **Background & Context**
 - *"On the third day"* (v. 1) – In 1st century Jewish culture, weddings were much more than the simple ceremony and reception that we know and experience today. Weddings were a multi-faceted celebration lasting several days including ceremonial elements, familial traditions, and an extended village-wide feast. To run out of wine during this celebration would have brought great shame to the bride and bridegroom families. An obvious allusion to His resurrection, Jesus' earthly ministry begins during this encounter on "on the third day."
 - *"My hour has not yet come"* (v. 4) – Jesus stepped in to rescue the situation and redeem the family of their pending humiliation. It is also notable that His earthly ministry begins and is marked numerous times with His statements about "my hour" (see [John 12:23-28](#), [John 17:1](#)) and divinely appointed times.
 - *"Fill the jars with water"* (v. 7) – These six large vessels collectively held a large amount of water used for ceremonial washing. While water physically washes the body, it figuratively represents the cleansing of the inward self and purification from sin. Water also quenches and satisfies our deepest thirst. Jesus—the Living Water—represents and offers us both cleansing (forgiveness) and satisfaction (eternal life). See [John 4:13-14](#).
 - *"You have saved the best [wine] till now"* (v. 10) – In Jewish culture, wine is much more than a common drink. It is often a sacred element symbolizing sacrifice, divine blessing, and exuberant joy. By turning the "cleansing" water into "choice" wine, Jesus is drawing together two of the richest symbols of His time. He is foreshadowing the fullness of His divine mission to rescue (cleanse/forgive) and redeem (once-and-for all sacrifice). Rejoice!
 - *"...the first of the signs through which he [Jesus] revealed his glory"* (v. 11) – Until this encounter, Jesus had just begun the calling of His first disciples. This was the full initiation and first manifestation of his earthly ministry.
- Now, with this context, read [John 2:1-11](#) aloud again.

EXAMINE

1. At first, Jesus questions and seems reluctant to intervene at His mother's suggestion (v. 3-4) or draw attention to the master of the banquet (v.8). Why do you think He responded to the situation the way He did?
2. Every encounter with Jesus reveals something about His nature, character, or divine mission. What does this passage and encounter illuminate about Him?
3. Every encounter with Jesus reveals something about the people with whom He engages. What does this encounter reveal about His audience in the passage?

APPLY

1. Reflect on the significance of the washing water and its symbolism of spiritual cleansing and forgiveness. In your encounters with Jesus this week, make a point to daily confess your sins, ask His forgiveness, and receive His mercy.
2. Reflect on the significance of the wine and its symbolism of sacrifice, divine blessing, and exuberant joy. In your daily encounters with Jesus this week, praise Him and express your gratitude for all He has accomplished and given to you.
3. Every encounter with Jesus reveals something to us in our personal lives. How does this passage uniquely challenge and speak to you in your current season of life, circumstance, and personal journey of faith?

PRAY

- Pray through the passage as you read it one more time. Ask God to transform your heart and mind according to how He has spoken to you through His Word.