

John 2:1-11

The wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the significance of the first of the eight sign-miracles, the meaning of the words of our Lord's to His mother.

It must be recognized that, like all Bible weddings, this one lasted for a whole week. The position occupied by our Lord's Mother makes it perfectly clear that it was an affair of her own family and probably the marriage of her eldest son by Joseph. Mary was obviously the presiding Hostess at the wedding and being responsible it would be natural that she would turn to the Lord.

“And when the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said unto Him, they have no wine. And Jesus said unto her, Woman what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come”(2:3,4).

Why did our Lord address His Mother in these terms, when almost at once He responded to her appeal for help in so mighty manner?

The answer is that our Lord, knowing all things, was perfectly well aware that this Wedding was a **type of the then coming Christian dispensation**, and that the failure of the wine at that point was a **prophetic intimation that the Dispensation would end in failure through the apostasy that would set in.**

When “the mother of Jesus” said to our Lord, “They have no wine”, He immediately looked on to the end of the Dispensation and as it were, heard Israel announcing that, “the times of the Gentiles” having ended in failure, it was now time for Him to show them the same mercy as He had to the Gentiles over these 2,000 years (Romans 11:25-32). But what is our Lord's response! “Not so, the time has not yet arrived for Me to revive you nationally and restore you!

The Christian Dispensation is everywhere in the Bible viewed as being 2,000 years in length. Our Lord referred to these 2,000 years of the Christian Dispensation as “the times of the Gentiles”. The period when Jerusalem would be under Gentile rule (Luke 21:24).

You may ask, What does the “wine” in this episode typify? Recalling the Lord's words, “No man put new wine into old bottles .... New wine must be put into new bottles” (Luke 5:37). The “new wine” was the truth of Christianity. The “new bottles” were the Gentiles. The “wine” that ran out in the Cana wedding is a type of all that joyous blessedness that has come to mankind through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

From the book The Restored Vision by A.E. Ware.