

1. Why Did Mary Come to Jesus Presuming Him to Have the Answer for the Problem with the Wine in John 2:3?

Mary's approach to Jesus indicates her awareness of His divine nature and capabilities. As His mother, she had likely witnessed His unique attributes and miraculous potential. Her faith in Him to resolve the issue reflects her trust and belief in His power.

- Luke 1:31-35: The angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about Jesus' divine nature.
- Luke 2:19: "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." This reflects Mary's understanding and contemplation of Jesus' unique identity.

2. Why Did Jesus Respond in a Way That Appears to Indicate She Should Not Have Asked Him to Assist?

In John 2:4, Jesus says, "Woman, why do you involve me? My hour has not yet come." His response can seem abrupt, but it is essential to understand it within the context and language of the time. The term "woman" was a respectful address, not disrespectful. Jesus' statement, "My hour has not yet come," indicates that His public ministry and the revelation of His full glory were not yet scheduled according to God's divine timing. His response underscores that His actions were in alignment with God's plan and timing, not human schedules.

- John 7:6: "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do."
- John 12:23: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." This reveals the significance of His "hour" in the context of His mission and glorification.

3. What Exact Is It That It Was Not Yet Time For, in John 2:4?

When Jesus says, "My hour has not yet come," He refers to the culmination of His earthly ministry, which includes His crucifixion, resurrection, and the full revelation of His divine identity and mission. At this moment, it was not yet time for Jesus to fully reveal Himself to the world as the Messiah through a public demonstration of power.

- John 12:27: "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour."
- John 17:1: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."

4. How Is It That Mary Instantly Knows That Jesus Will Begin to Take Charge, Evidenced by the Fact She Directs the Servants to Do Exactly as Jesus Says?

Mary's confidence in Jesus' ability to address the situation shows her deep faith and understanding of His divine mission. Her instruction to the servants to follow Jesus' directions implies she believed He would act, despite His initial response. This illustrates her trust in Jesus and her belief that He would handle the situation appropriately.

- Luke 1:45: "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"
- John 11:40: "Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'"

5. What Is Significant About the Scourge of Cords in John 2:15?

In John 2:15, Jesus makes a whip out of cords and drives out the money changers and merchants from the temple. This act signifies His zeal for the purity and sanctity of God's house, reflecting righteous anger against the commercialization and desecration of the temple. This event shows Jesus' authority to cleanse and protect the holiness of worship spaces.

- Psalm 69:9: "For zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me."
- Matthew 21:12-13: Jesus' cleansing of the temple, demonstrating His commitment to the sanctity of worship.

6. When Psalm 69:9 Is Quoted in John 2:17, How Is Its Use in the Psalm Useful as a Prophetic Verse Before Christ Here Ascribes It to Himself?

Psalm 69:9 says, "For zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me." In John 2:17, the disciples recall this verse as they witness Jesus' actions in the temple. The Psalm originally expresses the psalmist's deep devotion to God and willingness to endure suffering for God's sake. Jesus' reference to this Psalm emphasizes His dedication to honoring God and fulfilling His mission. It prophetically foreshadows Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and the rejection He would face for defending the sanctity of God's house and mission.

- Psalm 69:9: Demonstrates the psalmist's zeal for God's house and willingness to suffer for righteousness.
- Romans 15:3: "For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.'" This connects the Psalm's prophecy to Jesus' mission.

7. Who Is John Referring to in John 2:24 When He Says That Jesus Was Not Entrusting Himself to "Them," for He Knew All Men?

John is referring to the crowds and individuals who were beginning to believe in Jesus because of the signs He performed. Despite their initial belief, Jesus understood the fickle nature of their faith and the superficial reasons behind their belief. He knew that many were drawn to Him merely because of His miracles, not because of a genuine understanding of His divine nature and mission.

- Jeremiah 17:9-10: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."
- Matthew 9:4: "Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, 'Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?'"

8. In John 2:25, What Is It That Jesus Knew Was in Man?

Jesus knew the true nature of human hearts and the superficial, often self-serving reasons behind their actions. He understood the tendencies of humans to be fickle, insincere, and easily swayed. This divine knowledge allowed Him to discern the genuine from the superficial believers.

- 1 Samuel 16:7: "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"
- Proverbs 21:2: "A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart."

9. Why Would the Jews Have Needed There to Be Someone with Authority to Cleanse the Temple?

The Jewish leaders and authorities allowed the commercialization and desecration of the temple courts for profit and convenience. This led to corruption and a loss of sanctity in the worship space. They needed someone with divine authority and righteous zeal to cleanse the temple and restore its sanctity.

- Malachi 3:1-3: "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver