

- This "sermon" is an imaginative reconstruction of what it might have been like to be Peter, watching Jesus at the wedding at Cana...
- Now that's what I call a party!! Oh, wow - what a great time! It was jumpin'! A great crowd too - must have been close to the whole of Cana there, plus any number of folk from elsewhere - like us.
- I didn't know the family all that well - we'd gotten the invitation because we were Jesus' friends, and he and his mother were close to the Cohen's. So Jesus' mum was there, and so were his brothers and sisters, and all the folk from Cana, and extended family from all the surrounding villages. We'd arrived the night before - near a full day's walk up from Capernaum down on the sea of Galilee, probably 20 miles by the time you take in the turns in the road. Hard work! It wasn't so bad for Jesus' mum, she was only coming down from Nazareth - that's half the distance. Boy did we hope the party would be worth it! The sun sure makes a man thirsty when he's out walking.... Mind you, wedding parties do tend to go on for a fair while, so there was every chance it would be good! And plenty of chance for some refreshment!!
- We were all farmed out to various family and friends that night, and were up bright and early for the big day. And a great day it was too. David and Hannah were safely married, and the celebrations had started in earnest. There was food, there was music, there was dancing, and of course, there was plenty of wine. Not bad stuff either - not the best, but not bad. We were standing round, chatting, enjoying the singing, when Jesus' mum came up. Worried, she looked. It's only natural that since Jesus' dad died, she's turned to Jesus for most things. She had good reason to be worried too - the wine had run out! Of all the dreadful, shameful things to happen at a wedding, running out of wine was the worst. The shame of it! You could hear what the gossips would be saying already: "Didn't the Cohen's care about their guests? About David and Hannah's happiness? How could they be stingy on such a day?" All Mary said to Jesus was "They have no more wine."
- I'm still not quite sure what she expected Jesus to do - he's a carpenter, after all, not wine merchant! I can't think that she expected what happened next; her jaw was on the floor, same as the rest of us, when we saw what he did. Funny answer, too, that Jesus gave: "Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come." What did he mean? His time? Time for what? And when did he think it was coming? She was hardly involving him, only seeing if he had any ideas how they might help. She and Mrs Cohen are close.... And yet in his reply there was a tone of authority. Nothing pushy, nothing self-important - you just get the feeling sometimes that Jesus is the only one who really knows what is going on. Think his mum picked that up - she told the servants who were standing round, looking as worried as she was, to do whatever Jesus told them. What was he going to tell them? How to build a table? I mean, come on!
- Just by where we were standing were these big jars - you know, the 25 gallon ones you keep water in for ceremonial washing during the big festivals and such? These must have been a half dozen of them, all empty. So Jesus tells the servants to fill them with water. Daffest thing I ever heard - there's a town full of thirsty wedding guests, a distinct shortage of wine, and Jesus (who's just another guest) is telling the servants to fill religious washing jars with water! I mean, come on! But they started to do it. Queer looks they gave him, but that quiet authority was still in his words and his posture. Can't put my finger on what it was, but the servants did what he said.
- Takes a while to fill those big jars; back and forward they went to the well, back and forward with the water. I didn't hear them myself, but I'm sure they were muttering about the stupidity of filling the big jars up at a time like this! We still had no clue what Jesus was up to, and the first whispers about the wine having run out were beginning to rustle through the rest of the guests - and not very polite whispers they were, either. The servants finished before the whispers got too bad, and then Jesus told one of the servants to draw some off one of the jars, and take it to the chief steward! What cheek!

Was Jesus suggesting that David Cohen serve **water** at his wedding feast! The shame of it! That'd be almost worse than serving nothing! But the servant did as he was told.... a funny look came over his face as he drew the water out of the jar, but I couldn't see why at the time. Off he went to the top table, where the chief steward was fretting. As soon as **he** tasted the cup he was offered, he sprinted over to where we were standing, demanding to know where the wine had come from!

- I was right confused - wine? The wine had run out! There was no wine, just six big jars of water. Had the stress been getting to him? Maybe he should go and lie down! But he was right enough - those big stone jars were full to the brim with rich, red wine! Jesus didn't say anything, though I'm sure there was the tickle of a smile on his lips as the chief steward, still running in a most undignified manner, went back to the top table to speak to David Cohen. He was most impressed at this new supply of wine, especially its quality - most folk bring the best stuff out first, before folk have had anything that'll dull their taste-buds! Once they've had a bit to drink, out comes the poorer stuff. Normally works out fine, but not at the Cohen wedding - the best was saved till last.
- The servants were busy filling everyone's cups, though I did notice a few questioning looks being directed at Jesus. He just smiled, went on chatting - and had a cup or two of the wine! And that was it! No explanation, no **"this is how I did it"**, nothing. Just a slight smile, a warm hug for Hannah and David as we left, and a weary walk back down to Capernaum.
- Its funny, but Jesus draws attention to himself in the most unassuming way! It was nice of him to get David Cohen out of trouble like he did, saving his embarrassment and what not, but there was more than that going on. Jesus was saying something to us about who he was. He wasn't just another teacher, another rabbi, another John the Baptist.... But just who is he? Who can change water into wine? **(And not by pouring it into the soil of a vineyard!!)** In 150 gallon batches too!!
- But he didn't tell anyone; he hasn't bragged about it since; it just was part of who he is. He gave what he had for the Cohen's - quite a wedding present! Only the handful of us who were there when he did it would could have known. But, then again, he could have hidden what was going on from us too, had he really wanted to. He wanted us to see. He was showing us something about himself. But he didn't want us to be overwhelmed; he'd certainly have disrupted the wedding had he done it any other way! Somehow I don't think he'd have wanted to spoil David and Hannah's day, never mind not wanting any attention for himself.... its just the kind of guy he is, thinks of others first.
- There's something about him that's compelling. An attractiveness. A beauty. You might even say a glory, though I'd hesitate to use that word round the Pharisees. I can't get away from wanting to be with him, learn from him, see what he's up to. He just draws you after him, and the more you look, the more you see, the more you follow, the more you discover. He's worth trusting. I don't know where it'll take me, but I intend to follow him. He seems to know where he's going, though. You know that sense of purpose some people just exude - they know where they are going in life, a clear direction to all they do? That's Jesus. I'm convinced he knows where he's going, though he's never said anything directly.... **"my time has not yet come"** - what time?
- Mind, I guess he might be able to keep you safe if any trouble came up - even if only by drowning his opponents in a sea of red wine! That'd be a sight! Now, if **he** ever decided to **throw a party, lay on a banquet**, and not just help out at someone else's, **it'd be some party!! Wow!! I'd want an invitation to that one! That'd be heaven, just heaven....**