

One Hour

Text: *John 2:3,4 ESV – “3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ 4 And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.’”*

This is the first mention of the theme that will be pervasive and persistent through John’s Gospel.

I want us to see that John’s record of events are very much governed by *John 1:14—“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* I think that John wrote this Gospel so that we today could be included in that incredible privilege, so we can see “His glory,” the glory of the incarnate Son of God.

John places more emphasis on the phrase “my hour” than the other 3 gospels do.

7:30 ESV – “30 So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.”

12:23 & 27 ESV – “23 And Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 27 Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? “Father, save me from this hour”? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.”

13:1 ESV – “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”

John 17:1,2 ESV – “1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up his eyes to Heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, 2 since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him.”

Identifying His Hour

Note: Many people have differing opinions, but we just read where Jesus Himself defines His hour as the time of His glorification (John 17:1-2).

- 1) The Greek word translated *time* or *hour* (ὥρα, *hōra*) occurs 24 times in John. It is not a 60 minute period of time but rather it is a significant season. It is a time full of destiny and power.
- 2) His ‘hour’ is His Glorification!

The *hour* to which Jesus referred to is His glorification, when He would receive His true recognition, place, and position, not as an earthly king, but as the Messiah, God’s Son, Savior of mankind, seated at God’s right hand.

- 3) When would this ‘hour’ occur?

- a) I find it interesting to note that in John's Gospel His hour is constantly said to be "not yet" until the arrival of some gentiles.

John 12:20-23 – "Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. 21 So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' 22 Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'"

- b) Jesus had been moving toward His decisive hour. The coming of the Greeks confirmed that the hour had come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

In the Gospel of John, the entire life of Jesus was directed toward obeying the Father and fulfilling the hour and that's what takes us back to our opening story in John 2:

Lets read it:

John 2:1-11 – "On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with His disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.' 4 And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.' 5 His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever He tells you.' 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.' So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.' 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him."

The Wedding at Cana

It must have been something of a family affair. The mother of Jesus seems to be at the center of arranging things and "Jesus and His disciples" are invited.

A wedding in those days was a great celebration, not a little twenty-minute affair. The ceremony usually took place late in the evening—Wednesday if the girl was a virgin and Thursday if she was a widow. There was always a huge feast first. Then there was a procession to the home of the groom, a joyous, noisy parade with an open house and entertainment that went on for at least a week!

The groom and his family were responsible for ensuring there was sufficient wine for the entire week. Often they would do this through organizing donations ahead of time from close relatives and friends.

To run out of wine was not simply a social embarrassment but it would be a serious loss of family honor.

A Glimpse of His Glory

Changing the water into wine: *John 2:11 – “This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory...”*

1) The Glory of the Obedient Son

- a) Here we see that Jesus is fully self-aware of the heavenly agenda established by God.
- b) Jesus gives her the stiff arm! *“4 And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.’”*
- c) Mary approaches Jesus as His mother, and is nearly rebuked. But He still takes an action that has become a famous event. Why?
 - i) Jesus responds to faith.
 - ii) Jesus responds with the new covenant in view.
 - iii) Jesus identified Himself as the all-sufficient Bridegroom.

2) The Glory of the Great Purifier

“6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim.”

- a) There is a reason why Jesus chose these 6 huge water jars (over 100 gallons).
 - i) These jars were not for drinking; they were to be used for washing. The Jews had developed a religious ritual of washing their hands and feet before eating.

These pots represented man’s best effort to cleanse himself through religious ritual.
 - ii) This miracle points to His own death as the ultimate purification for sins that would nullify and replace the Jewish purification rituals and every other religious ritual that draws attention away from the cross.
- b) So it seems that Jesus wants to say that this is what “My hour” will be like: “I will take the purification rituals of Israel and replace them with a powerful new way of purification through My blood.”

John 6:55 – “Jesus said, ‘My blood is true drink. Unless you ... drink [the] blood [of the Son of Man], you have no life in you’” (John 6:53).

2) The Glory of the All-sufficient Bridegroom

- a) *John 2:9–10* shows that the groom was finally responsible for the wine as his wedding. Which means it was his shortcoming that let the wedding run out of wine. *Verse 9: “When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of*

the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.'"

- b) No, he didn't save the best for last... he let the wine run out.
 - i) That's the way it is with grooms on this earth. All husbands fail to be all that we ought to be.
 - ii) But quietly, powerfully, Jesus plays the role of the perfect, all-sufficient Bridegroom. Out of water comes wine—better than any husband could provide.
- c) Jesus is the all-sufficient Bridegroom who presents to Himself a glorious bride.

The Glory of the Bride is always the glory she finds on her wedding day!

- i) But our Bridegroom saves the best for last.
- ii) He chose 6 jars because they represent multiple hours (seasons) of transformation in your life.

2 Corinthians 3:18 – "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."