

A Mother's Overcoming Love

Dr. Charles Montgomery, Jr.

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Overcomers

John 2:1-11

[SLIDE #1] OVERCOMERS

[SLIDE #2-3] John 2: 1- 11 (NKJV)

[LT #] A MOTHERS OVERCOMING LOVE

It has been said that you never get a second chance to make a first impression. That's what my mother used to tell me. That son if you really want to do anything well—you've got to learn how to put your best face on, and package yourself in such a way—that you impress those you are meeting for the very first time. And over the years I've found this 'mother-wit' to be some pretty good advice. Because a second chance—is 'usually dependent' upon your first impression. Whether it's interviewing for a first job. Or auditioning for a new role. Applying for college. Going out on a first date—you've got to know how to make a good first impression. For the doors of opportunity seldom remain open to those who don't know how to present themselves at their best...so that people might believe in their possibility and their potential.

In fact some of you listening to me right now—you've been had, you've been tricked, hood-winked, bamboozled....by somebody who mastered the art—of putting on a GOOOD first

impression. Because if you want to have a second chance, you've got to make a good first impression. If you agree with me that first impressions are critical to how we navigate and move through life. To how people respect us in what we are able to do—I would suggest to you that what happens in the second chapter of John is 'confusing and curious'. For in this second chapter—John brings to us—the first miracle of Jesus Christ.

Here is ...the 'first impression' Jesus makes on the world, and he does it through a miracle that many of us are familiar with: Turning water..... into wine. And I would suggest to you that if you hang out here a little bit...Vineyard there's something problematic—about this being Jesus' inaugural ministry miracle. And I would argue that it really doesn't make a great first impression. Build your case preacher...Well...# 1 look at where it goes down—it goes down in a city called Cana of Galilee. And if you go home and you do some biblical research—you're going to find that—NOWHERE else in the Bible..... do you ever read about Cana. Cana is not some historic city...there's no significance to Cana...there's no great temple or synagogue in Cana. Nobody ever goes to Cana—it's a desert place, it's a barren place and NOBODY appreciates Cana—it's not a high powered city. There are no Pharisees in Cana, no Sanhedrin Council in Cana...no Roman Centurion in Cana. In fact, there's no one in Cana..... that you really need to impress! Yet Jesus does his first miracle—in CANA.....not in a church....but at a wedding!

Now because some of us are stuck in 2019's definition of wedding—let me take you back to a time when Jesus lived...and remind you that weddings were not just simply big religious events—they were MAJOR....SOCIAL EVENTS. A 7 day party.....perhaps even more. Ya'll....these

aren't church-goers. These aren't Bible quoters. These are people who came to PARTY: to Eat, Drink, be Merry—and have a good time. **And it is HERE**—that Jesus CHOOSES....to introduce himself.

And this miracle doesn't really exemplify—ALL, who Jesus is! I mean **there's nothing** about this miracle—that gives glory to God! Here is a man that will do great things—and he chooses to introduce himself...by turning water into wine! Now if it were me... and I was the Savior—I would have started with something that made a better first impression. Maybe I would have started by raising Lazarus from the dead...So you all would know who you're dealing with! Maybe I would have opened some blinded eyes just to get my props. Maybe I would have walked on water at least to get coverage from CNN, ABC, or at least a shout out on Twitter...But turning—water...into wine! God doesn't get any glory out of that! There's no theological significance. There's no hidden, Kingdom, message...in turning water into wine!

As a matter of fact let me tell you how unremarkable this miracle is: Every other miracle Jesus does—folk refer to him by that: Isn't that the brother that raised Lazarus from the dead? Isn't that the man who opened blinded eyes? But no where does anybody say—hey that's Jesus..... that dude——turns water into wine. There's no reference to this miracle—as an identifying mark of the supreme power of Jesus Christ. So why use THIS—as a first impression!

As a matter of fact, in 2019—the sanctified among us, have had some difficulty with this miracle. Because we would have liked it more—if he would have turned wine into water! I've

got an uncle—who is the unofficial alcohol commissioner of Mahoning County up there near Youngstown. And I remember as a kid-I asked him one day —why he drank. And he got BIBLICAL on me! He said, because JESUS—turned WATER into wine. And if the Lord condoned it...(ya'll pray for me) There are those among us who would have dealt with this better if he turned wine into water...There's nothing GLORIOUS or GLAMOROUS—about turning water into wine. Why would Jesus use this as his first impression? Why would Jesus decide to use his SOVEREIGN Power—to turn water into wine? Why would Jesus introduce himself at a party —- the answer is SHOCKING and simple:

He didn't. His momma told him to do it!

Don't get so saved and sanctified that you don't read the Bible the way it's written. This is not what Jesus wanted to do! But his momma—told him do it. Now before you get upset about that let me remind you that Jesus is human. And just like a lot of us of us—we've had some moments in life when we did what we did not really want to do..... but we did it—because your momma told you do it. You didn't want to take piano—your momma made you do it. Ballet wasn't on your agenda. You didn't want to sing in the choir. There were some Sundays you didn't want to come to church—You didn't want to do those chores...but your mother made you **get up** and do something you didn't want to do. There's something about the power of a MOTHER—to move even the Sovereign savior of the world.

Look at how it goes down in John (chapter) 2. The Bible says they were at a wedding. And you need to know that a wedding was not just a marital event. Not just a social party.....but it was a sign of STATUS! Because in order for a wedding to go down correctly—the Bride's family had to be able to support a SEVEN DAY party—where all the guests and drink. And not just have honey, and milk, and water, but have WINE and meat! And the Bible says in the midst of this party—the WINE runs out. Now...don't be so religious, that you miss the significance of it. The wine running out is a major catastrophe—because now the party stops! The good times ain't rolling no more. And a family now faces the public embarrassment of not being able to pay for the wedding. Because you cannot have a reception like this— a situation that socially hinges upon hospitality and have the wine run out. Ya'll this is getting ready to be a major embarrassment. In fact, Max Lucado says that this family consists of people, who personally need Jesus to save them from embarrassment. And the only reason why some of us don't know how important it is for Jesus to save us from embarrassment, Max Lucado says...is because you aint never been embarrassed. Because if you've ever been embarrassed...then you'll understand how important it is for Jesus to save them from embarrassment.

And I love this because while I was reading and preparing for this message, I started thinking about stuff other folk got caught in, and got put on blast about...And some of it was stuff I've done....but ya'll just didn't hear about it...Because Jesus saved me from embarrassment. And I know I got two or three witnesses out there. Who have done some things you never should have done. And while they were talking about somebody else—you were thinking: "Thank you Jesus for saving me from this kind of embarrassment. "DO I HAVE A WITNESS?

The wine ran out.... and wine represents joy and celebration. But notice how quickly the celebration ended. This couple have been married for less than a week, suggesting this is not an ideal situation. Somebody said that most folk when we get married think of marriage as an IDEAL. And then we find out it's an ORDEAL. And get mad at God because they think we got a raw deal. And start going out looking for a NEW DEAL. But I digress.

What I'm trying to get you to understand is that they're in a situation that turned on a dime. Somebody I'm preaching now that's where you're at today. Things have turned on a dime. From last year to this year. From last Mother's Day to this Mother's Day. From last month to this month. Or watch this: From Yesterday even to today. Your wine has run out. And the text doesn't say why it ran out. But what it does say is that word got to Mary. Some say she may have been a hostess. Others say she may have been related to the family. I don't know. But what I do know is that Mary—is Jesus' mother. And what we see in this text is a Mother's Love on display. Watch this model of motherhood as we lift up Mary today. Here is a mother that realizes that there's a problem on the scene. That the wine has run out. There's no money to buy any more wine. The family can't afford it. Nobody can fix it. It's about to be a major fiasco in Cana.....and SHE DECIDES....in the midst of this problem....I KNOW SOMEONE I can talk to that can solve it. Don't miss this. She realizes there's something going down that money cannot fix. Human hands cannot solve. And it's about to be on and poppin'. But she knows someone she can talk to who can FIX the problem. So she decides to have a talk with Jesus!

And I think I need to tell you, one of the things God blesses us with—are praying mothers!

Mothers who know—when to have a talk with Jesus. Mothers who realize that a prayer of a mother can guide a child. Can direct a child...Can lift up a child. That there's no greater gift that God has given you as a woman with influence—than the ability to pray for your child. As a matter of fact—let me prove it to you. There's some people in the house OF GOD TODAY who can testify—I AM WHERE I AM in LIFE AND IN THE KINGDOM—because I had a mother or grandma. Who bowed down on her knees—and lifted up my name to heaven. Don't fool me! IS THERE ANYBODY HERE WHO HAD A PRAYING MOTHER AND CAN THANK GOD YOUR MOTHER PRAYED FOR YOU!

I'm so glad—that momma prayed for me. I'll tell you as a living testimony I am where I am in life—because there were moments when I would wake up.....in the morning. And I would hear my grandmother of blessed memory...praying for me. There were times I would walk by and in the mirror my mother would have a note on it: God take care of my son. I'm here to tell you—a praying mother—can change a child.

Here she is—dealing with a son—who hasn't proven his power yet! He's not lived up to his Sovereign possibility. She know who he is. The angel declared it—God Godself spoke it...If there's anybody who knew what Jesus was able to do—it was Mary. But yet Jesus has not done anything. And there's some mother in this place that knows the frustration of a child who has not lived up to their possibility. You know and believe their potential and possibility you felt it when you were pregnant in your womb but they have YET to perform....what you know they are able to do. And I came by to speak to some mother when you are frustrated with a child

who has not been able to live up to what God has said they can be...the greatest gift to lift them and elevate them...is not an angry voice...or an argumentative debate...it's not some big-belt in the closet —but if you want to CHANGE YOUR CHILD—PRAY FOR YOUR CHILD. And it's not the beating and the spanking that moves them—it's your prayer!

And so.....she brings the problem to Jesus. Now here's the wild part Saints and I hope you get this. She brings it to Jesus—knowing that he can fix it...But remember this is his first miracle...which means up until now he hasn't done anything. 30 years old! Ain't done nothing! But this mother—believes in what he can do— in spite of what he hasn't done. Because the real gift of a mother is to have that belief that says:

[LT #2]

Believes in present possibilities despite past performance

"I believe in present possibility, despite past performance" That whatever my child HAS NOT DONE—does not limit my belief in what my child can do. And I'm not talking just about teenage children...no...I'm talking about some mother that has some grown children....and what all of us need are some mothers in our corner: Who believe that we are able. Who believe that we can. Who support our dreams. Who pray for our progress. Who encourage our performance. And can say it does not matter what is NOT on your resume. I know what God declares you can be. And I know what God says you can do. And I will encourage you and support you and stand by you—regardless to what you have not done. I believe what you.....CAN DO!

She brings this to Jesus believing what he can do. And listen to how the Lord responds...WOMAN, what that got to do with me?! Now—you need to know that in the Gospel of John, Mary is never called “Mary”. John always calls her—The mother of Jesus. But **Jesus** looks at his **mother**—and says: WOMAN!

WOMAN! I called my momma by her first name once...That didn’t go too well. Yet here is **our Jesus**—looking at the Woman who **birthed him**—and does not call her ‘mother’. He disengages and calls her.....WOMAN. There are some who read this....and suggest that Jesus was being disrespectful. And Mothers, hear me.... there are times along the journey when a child can become disrespectful. In fact I wish I could promise you your cute little boo-boo and button will always be nice and loving...But the truth be told—cute little children, start talking back. But here in this text, I don’t believe Jesus was being disrespectful...It seems that way trying to translate the English from the Greek. But listen that word “Woman” is the same word that Jesus used when he was dying on the cross for your sins and mine and he said:

[LT #3]

Women behold your son and son behold your mother

He says this in a tender moment—suggesting that this text is not about tone but it’s about TIMING. Notice again what Jesus says: Woman what does that have to do with me? And then he says this:

[LT #4] John 2:4(b)

“...My Hour has not yet come.”

Meaning this: Jesus has a time table in mind. In fact later on in the book of John around chapter 7, some of Jesus brother wanted him to go to the feast of the Tabernacles. They said show yourself to the world. But Jesus said I can't go now because there some folk who will try to kill me and even though I have a date with death. My hour has not come. In Chapter 8 he's teaching in the synagogue and some others try to seize him but the Bible says they could not seize him because his hour had not come. What I'm trying to get you to understand Vineyard is that Jesus has a timetable in mind. But even though he has timing on his mind, somewhere in the back of his mind—he hears his mother saying: they need you. Because one of the great gifts of a Godly mother is to broaden the perspective of your child.

[LT #5]

Broadens Perspectives

To let then know that Life is more than just me myself and I. In other words your world view has to be larger than your personal well being...That you've got to be concerned about stuff that's not on your personal agenda. You've got to have a concern for your neighbor. And a concern for your community. And a concern for your city. And your nation. And your world. And recognize that a problem of somebody else **MAY ALSO** need to be a concern for you! THAT'S WHAT A MOTHER'S LOVE DOES. It broadens perspective! And watch this—not only does she

broaden the perspective of her son, but she broadens the perspectives of those surrounding her. For the Bible says she turns to the servants—points to Jesus and says whatever he says to do—do it. In other words I don't know what he's going to do. But I'm his mother. And I've known him for over 30 years. So I know he's going to do something...And whatever he says to do—do that. And ya'll I can't prove this. But I believe that Mary is an old school mama. Because if you follow the text, after she IMPLICITLY directs Jesus—SHE DIRECTLY COMMANDS THE SERVANTS. Meaning this: **Here is a momma that says: Not only is HE going to do what I tell him to do, But ALL YALL—going do what I told you do!** (Tell somebody that's an "Old-school" like my momma)

But not only that...but that a Godly mama. Because a Godly Mama—exerts INFLUENCE— and TEACHES PRINCIPLES—even OUTSIDE of her natural born child.

[LT #6]

Teaches Principles

That's why I believe, btw, that you can be a MOTHER—and be childless. Because what defines you as a Godly mother —is not that you've been in the delivery room...but rather God has given you INFLUENCE to change circumstances and classrooms and children and those in your environment—because you realize God has given you something that CHANGES people around you! And hear me, if you start changing lives around you and praying for children in your circle and use the influence around you then you already have a mothering Spirit!

Listen, there are some women in this church—some who birthed children and some who have not that are still mothering figures. I may not have had a child, but I'm a mother figure in this church. A mother figure in Kidsquest. A mother figure in what God has called me to do—That's why we need mothers and fathers who are called to our Kids Quest Ministry

[SLIDE #4]

KIDS QUEST RECRUITMENT SLIDE

And we need you to sign up in droves because God has given you influence to help our children, and train our children in the way they should go so when they grow old they won't depart from it. And you can sign up in the lobby of our campuses today. But what I also want you to see today is how Mary influences those around her. She says: DO whatever Jesus tells you to do. What is implied in that—is her saying—go talk to Jesus—and—watch this...listen to what he says...Because a Good mother, INFLUENCES those around her—to have conversation with Jesus and to listen to what the Lord says, in other words: A good mother....influences her children—to pray.

[LT #7]

Teach us to Pray

She leads them to a place—where they know how to talk to the Lord. You see one of the greatest things you can do as a mother—is encourage and train those around you to have a talk

with God. Just....Start off—with “Now I lay me down to sleep”. Graduate them to “Our Father which art in heaven”. Promote them to “You’re a Good, Good Father—that ‘s who you are—that you are perfect in all of your ways”. That’s when you know you’ve done your job—when you teach them how to pray. Because I’ve come by to tell you, that in every child’s life....the wine will run out. The good times will stop. The storm will come. The problem will knock. The sickness will be there. And if you’ve not taught them how to pray—you’ve not equipped them for life. We spend so much time trying to teach our children, how to have a jump shot (cool) How to kick a soccer ball (great)...how to add fractions and how to read correctly (that’s important) But don’t fail to give them the greatest tool they need for when the wine runs out in their life. **BECAUSE When the wine runs out -- how many of you know you better know how to pray!** When the wine runs out you better know how to fall on your knees and have a little talk with Jesus (Do I have a witness) Teach them how to pray. And she says—whatever he tells you to do..do it. Teach them how to pray and # 2: Teach them how to OBEY.

[LT #8]

B. Teaches us to Obey

That whatever God tells you—do it. HEAR ME: If the Lord says—be patient, do it. If the Lord says worship—do it. If the Lord says—tithe —do it. If the Lord says forgive—do it. If the Lord says walk away—walk away. If the Lord says stay in it, stay in it. If God directs your heart—then you must be obedient to what the Lord calls you to do. Hear me, even if it doesn’t make sense. Moses and the children of Israel—leave Egypt they’re in the wilderness—they don’t have water

for days. And they come upon upon some bitter water that they can't drink. God shows them a tree. God we don't need a tree—we need water. No Moses take the tree and throw it into the water. And Moses obeys and bitter water turns sweet. Sometimes it doesn't make sense—but he knows how to transform a bitter situation and make it sweet. But sometimes he'll tell you to do something that doesn't make sense. 10 Leper's are walking in need of healing. Jesus says go show yourself to the priest. No Lord we don't need a church home—we need a healing. Jesus says no you need a Pastor. And on their way to the Pastor that's when the healing came.

Because sometimes he'll tell you to do something that doesn't make sense. But when you OBEY HIM he works it out for you. The House is full they had to tear off a room to get a man to Jesus. Jesus says your sins are forgiven. No Jesus he doesn't need sins forgiven he needs to walk. Jesus says HE CAN'T WALK RIGHT BECAUSE OF HIS SIN. (DO I HAVE A WITNESS) SOMETIMES HE TELLS YOU TO DO SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

Ok... here it is. Six water pots—fill them up with water pots. Jesus—we don't need water—we need WINE. Ya'll—in the pathway of obedience is where we get our miracles. The reason why some of us never experience miracles—is because of partial obedience. He tells us to fill up water pots—we fill them half way—because we think he's going to throw some grapes in there or something. He tells us to bring our tithes to the storehouse—and we tip instead of tithe—but expect God to open up the windows of heaven—No it doesn't work like that! That's partial obedience. My mother used to tell me—partial obedience—is really disobedience. And it's out of that partial obedience some of us miss our miracle. I wish I had hours to preach this—but we got to get momma to (Dinner/Brunch) so let me move to the next point. Mary says—I want ya'll

to talk to him. I want you to obey him. But the third thing is I want you to **TRUST HIM**

[LT #9]

C. Teaches us to Trust

When you go home I want you to re-read John Chapter 2. And this is the question I want you to ask: “When does the water become wine?” There’s no verse that says “And then the water became wine.” WHEN—is it going to happen? Does it happen when they fill the brim with water? Does it happen when Jesus speaks? Does it happen when they draw it out? Nobody knows! But this is one thing we know: “When it gets to the Master.....it is what it needed to be.” And the implicit direction of Mary is—there may be times when you don’t know HOW the Lord is going to do it. You don’t know WHEN God is going to do it. You don’t know WHO the Lord is going to use and HOW God’s going to work it out—BUT IN THOSE MOMENTS...TRUST GOD. TRUST WHAT GOD WILL DO WHAT HE SAID HE WOULD DO. TRUST THAT GOD WILL MAKE A WAY. TRUST THAT GOD HAS IT UNDER CONTROL. TRUST GOD WHEN YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND GOD. And WHEN you trust God—you’ll find out a few things. I’m in verse #8:

[LT #10] John 2:8(b) NKJV

Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast

Don’t miss this—six pots—the Bible says that are somewhere from 20 -30 gallons. Suggesting that now they have between 120- 180 Gallons of wine! That’s a WHOOOOLE LOT of wine!

Jesus—makes more wine—than the party needs....because when you TRUST GOD. Not only will he better than what you have...But he'll give you **MORE**—than what you need. Oh this is Mother's Day—so you've got to keep your Mother's Day look on—but there are some folk who are living witnesses—**that we serve a God of abundance...a God that goes exceedingly, and abundantly ABOVE what you need. IS THERE ANYBODY HERE WHO KNOWS THAT GOD GIVES YOU MORE THAN WHAT YOU NEED!**

But watch this...it's not just quantity but it's quality. Dip that cup—take it to the host of this whole reception and see what he thinks. And I don't want ya'll to taste it first. I want you to trust me about what I did. And some of you know when you take stuff to a big baller. You really want to taste it yourself first. But here they're trusting Jesus. And when the big baller tasted the wine, he said, "Hold up—I've been to a whole lot of parties...And usually they stop with the 'top shelf'. In other words...They start with the GOOD WINE—and after everybody gets a little Topsy (it's in the Bible) Then they bring out—the low bottom stuff! He said...But THIS....is the BEST WINE—that I've had. **Because when you TRUST GOD—you'll find out that what God brings....is BETTER than what you had. That when you put it all in the hand of God—and TRUST THE LORD—with EVERYTHING IN YOUR LIFE—what God—GIVES YOU—is better than what you had.**

Mary says, listen...I want you to talk to him...I want you to obey him...I want you to trust him...But here's the fourth thing a Godly mother influences them to do: To pray. To obey. To trust. And watch this: GIVE THANKS

[LT #11]

Teaches us to Give Thanks

Watch how the text reads..... when the master drinks the wine...A sad indictment—is that he doesn't know where it came from. He's been blessed...but doesn't know the source of his blessings. He's got BETTER than what he had....but he doesn't know WHO made it happen. And so he begins to thank the Bridegroom—because he doesn't know whose really responsible. BUT THE BIBLE SAYS—that the servants who had listened to Mary. That THEY KNEW—that THIS water became wine....NOT because of the bridegroom...But because of Jesus. And that even if the Master gives thanks to the wrong one...That we who have been around Mary know—that the wine we ought to give thanks for—is because of God. That We acknowledge—that this is NOT BY HUMAN HANDS. THIS IS NOT BY OUR OWN DOING. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN SO GOOD. BUT **THIS COMES** because of Jesus Christ.

And I came by to tell you that one of the greatest things you can do as a mother is teach your child how to acknowledge the goodness of God. Let them know that THIS IS NOT because of you...But because THE GOD WE SERVE IS GREAT. AND THAT GOD IS GOOD. AND THE LORD HASBLESSED US! I want you to acknowledge the goodness of God! Here's how the text ends—and it's a good way to end this Mother's Day message. The Bible says: This was the BEGINNING of what Jesus was going to do. That word beginning in Greek means simply—the FIRST of more to come. That Mary puts these servants and disciples in a place where they realize—God is just getting started. That it's going to get better from here. That when you talk to him and trust him

and thank him—it is the BEGINNING of what God is going to do in your life.

GOSPEL CALL

(Call for those who want a new beginning)

ALTAR CALL FOR ALL MOTHERS....

Pastoral Prayer....God I thank you for women of influence...Who we can call mothers. Those oh God who rise above the disrespect of children. Those who acknowledge possibility in spite of past performance. Those whose Mothers who pray and teach us to pray and teach us to obey, teach us to trust, and teach us to give you thanks. And many of us have been the recipients of what you've done in our lives—because of WOMEN that put us in a place to know—this was just the beginning. I thank you oh God for these mother's hearts today—and I pray that you strengthen them....to be like Mary—and know that they are able to raise children who WALK in the glory of God. It's in your name that we pray....AMEN.