

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Religion vs. Relationship

John 2:1-11 - On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so,⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Jesus broke the belief people had that God desires religion and rituals.

Matthew 15:7-9 – Jesus said, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,⁸ 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'⁹ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God."

Ezekiel 33:30-32 – God said to Ezekiel, "Son of man, your people talk about you in their houses and whisper about you at the doors. They say to each other, 'Come on, let's go hear the prophet tell us what the Lord is saying!'³¹ So my people come pretending to be sincere and sit before you. They listen to your words, but they have no intention of doing what you say. Their mouths are full of lustful words, and their hearts seek only after money.³² You are very entertaining to them, like someone who sings love songs with a beautiful voice or plays fine music on an instrument. They hear what you say, but they don't act on it."

Jesus came to show all people the true way to be made right with God.

We are made right through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Hebrews 10:11-14 - Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins.¹² But our High Priest (Jesus) offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.¹³ There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet.¹⁴ For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy

1 Peter 1:18-19 - For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value.¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.