The Gospel of John  
**2.1—IT IS TIME– JOHN 2:1–5**

INTRODUCTION

How did Jesus discover who He was? At what point did He learn that He was more than a normal young man growing up in Galilee? When did He realize that He had come from heaven, that He had existed before His birth, that He was literally God’s Son? Did He have an omniscient mind from the moment He was born? As a newborn babe could He speak every language of the world fluently? Was He analyzing the calorie count of His mother’s milk or the molecular structure of the follicles of His father’s beard? According to the teachings of Scripture, though He remained God, Jesus truly and fully became a man. He set aside many attributes that He had always possessed as God, and became like one of us. So He must have had to discover His true identity in much the same way as we do, which is why we can learn how to discover our own identity by watching Him.

So how did Jesus discover who He was?

The first five verses of John chapter 2 provoke many questions like these, and also provide some insights to how and when Jesus fully engaged His assignment.

The questions and answers we’ll consider today also point to another person with both an assignment and a time to carry it out. You may have guessed, that person is YOU!

We’re only going to cover John 2:1-5, but let’s read verses 1-11 to catch the whole story:

**John 2:1–11 (ESV)** 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.

V1.1 “On the third day”

* In chapter 1, John described four days starting with the day that priests and Levites showed up at the Jordan River. They had been sent by the Pharisees in Jerusalem to question John the Baptist. Over the following three days we saw John the Baptist identify Jesus as the Lamb of God and as the Son of God, and several encounters with Jesus’ earliest disciples.

V1.2 “Cana of Galilee”

* Look at chapter 1:43, “The next day (day 4) Jesus decided to go to Galilee…”
* Cana of Galilee was up in the north, approximately 70 miles from where John the Baptist was baptizing. Therefore, John’s use of phrase, “the third day” here in chapter 2 cannot mean one of the three days of chapter 1 because they happened in two different locations.
* At a normal pace, it would have taken Jesus and His disciples about three days to walk from the baptism site to Cana.

V1–2 “… a wedding … and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited with His disciples.”

* Cana was just a few miles from Nazareth, where Joseph, Mary, and their family lived. So Mary and Jesus were likely either good friends of those hosting the wedding or relatives.
* Because Jesus had just arrived, His invitation was likely a last-minute decision, and that was certainly true for the five or six disciples He showed up with.

V3 “the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’”

* Jesus’ family alone probably had eight people, and then another five or six disciples. So it’s quite possible that Mary felt that her family—including Jesus—were to some degree responsible for the embarrassment that their friends were about to feel since the wine ran out.

V4.1 “Woman, what does this have to do with me?”

* Sometimes the translations make Jesus seem heartless or rude.
* A literal translation of this phrase would read like this:
  + “What [is it] to Me and to you, woman?”
* He initially seems to be asking her, “Why do you feel it’s our responsibility to solve this?”
* However, Jesus next statement, and Mary’s response to it, reveal that Mary has something specific in mind, and that Jesus knows it.

V4.2 “My hour”

**Ecclesiastes 3:1–2, 7 (ESV)** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: **2** a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; **… Verse 7 …** a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

V4.3 “My hour has not yet come.”

* Jesus knows that she’s asking Him to do a miracle

**1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT)** From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.

V5 “His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’”

* It’s almost as if Mary ignores what Jesus just said, and is saying, “It is time.”
* And the interesting thing is, after saying, “My hour has not yet come,” Jesus did what she wanted Him to do.
* He had already been filled with the Holy Spirit … and He had just returned from fasting and prayer for 40 days. However…
* LET ME BE CLEAR … JESUS WOULD NOT HAVE COMPROMISED THE TIMING OF THE BEGINNING HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY BECAUSE HIS MOM WANTED TO PROTECT HER FRIENDS FROM EMBARRASSMENT.
* John doesn’t write down most of what happened … he just gave us the overview. We don’t know exactly how long this conversation took, or if Jesus stepped aside to pray. What we do know is that even though He had said, “My hour has not yet come,” He was prompted by the Holy Spirit to give a word of wisdom to the servants.
* So … it WAS the will of God for Jesus to perform this first miracle there … and it appears that God used His mother to help Him to see that.
* Both my mother and father were used by God on many occasions to help me in my ministry. Things they would say would give me wisdom, or help me see a different perspective. There were certain times when my mother seemed to be especially intuitive, and occasionally, depending on what she said, I didn’t immediately agree with her. Such seemed to be the case here with Jesus and Mary.

**Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Esther 4:14 (ESV)** “For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”