

To see the glory of God

By Arne Kappelgaard

[Texts: Exodus 33,18-23 and John 2,1-11](#)

What a strange way that Jesus chose to start showing his divine power and authority: to make extra wine for a wedding party!

Is God not interested in things that are more important?

May be not! May be we can understand from this that **Jesus really wants man to have perfect joy!** Actually, is perfect joy not what we hope for from God?

We may be missing other things in order to have perfect joy, much greater problems than extra wine. But, joy as our deepest longing for this life – yes.

Peace is a deep need for this life, but when we have peace without joy, we know that still we are not fulfilled.

Actually, the eternal life with God in Heaven is several times described as a wedding feast – as the best image of joy!

Actually this also reminds me that **I can come with all my very small problems to him!** Many of the things that we ask God to help us with are really not important for our salvation...

But Jesus has taught us that we are allowed to come with all our small problems too, as well as the big problems of this life and the most important problem of our relationship to God himself!

Next we should learn from this story that even Jesus' mother, Mary, could **not tell Jesus what to do**. She told him the problem: "They have no more wine!" (It was probably the kind of wedding feast where you don't know if there will come 200 or 400 people!)

Mary **just told the problem**, but it is possible to tell a problem in a way that is **more than information!** For example:

If my wife said this morning before breakfast: "Arne, we have no more bread!" I would understand it as more than information!

Jesus heard her prayer, but could not accept that even she told him what to do. Anyway, **still she trusted** that he had heard her prayer!

When **we** are frustrated and disappointed in our prayers it is most often because we have tried to tell God what to do.

When we learn from Mary simply to tell him our problems and leave it to him what he will do, then we will find a new peace of mind.

The making of wine was **a sign** for the disciples. It led them to believe in him as a person sent from God. They saw his **glory** – at least a bit of it. And they wanted to **see even more**.

Also **Moses** came so close to God that he wanted to **see even more**. He had seen great miracles, had seen how great love and mercy God had for his people, even when they had been so unfaithful that he had reason to give up his people completely!

Moses had seen that God heard his prayers for mercy – and now longed even to see him directly. But, he could only see God from behind. The glory of God would be too much.

In a way **in Jesus** we have seen more of the glory of God. God showed himself in Jesus. And yet also in the restricted form of a human being. But, Jesus revealed how God's heart is. Deepest on the cross. Somehow, it also was glory seen from behind. In his resurrection, he manifested in full power his glory.

We will have to **wait until heaven** before we can see him face to face and our joy will be complete. **Until then** we as the disciples will walk with the longing to see more of his glory. So let us walk closely with him, and he will reveal more of his glory to us.