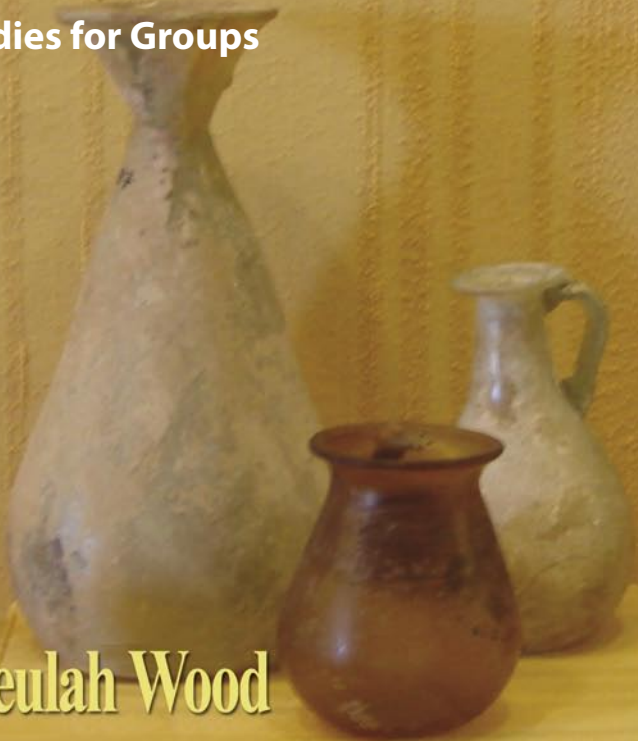


Vessels

**of
Honour**

**Jesus Talks to Women
&
Women at Work in the Bible
Studies for Groups**

Beulah Wood



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Jesus and his Mother

John 2:1-12

AIM

To see how Jesus allowed a woman to prompt him into action.

LIFE AND TIMES

Since Jewish wedding feasts lasted for a week, the groom had to supply plentiful food and wine. If a family did not provide enough they felt deeply embarrassed and could even be fined. This emergency could cost both socially and financially. However, one woman believed her son was special and could help. Mary had pondered much on the future of Jesus (Luke 2:51), who was by then about thirty years old.

OBSERVE AND UNDERSTAND

1. What might have made Mary notice there was not enough wine?
2. Mary was aware of impending problems and took responsibility. What does this say about the kind of things a woman may be aware of?
3. Mary told the disciples, "Do as he tells you." Why, do you think, did she say this?
4. While Mary instructed the servants, she handed the situation to Jesus. She trusted and acted, taking a risk. What can we learn from her?
5. Jesus gave the servants clear instructions. At what point do you think they became aware of what was happening?
6. Who in this story believed and obeyed to make the miracle happen?

7. Do you think Jesus would have done this first miracle if Mary had not persuaded him?
8. Mary prompted Jesus to commence his ministry. Mary's action was in public and an act of leadership. Is it appropriate for women to encourage gifted people to act?

APPLY THE MESSAGE

9. What can we learn from Mary on facing insurmountable problems?
10. What can we learn from Mary on initiating service as Christians?

PRAY

Jesus, we thank you that Mary trusted her judgment enough to see a need and act. Give us this same confidence to act on a need or to encourage others to act, and to undertake new tasks with the same love and faith that Mary had. Amen.

VESSELS OF HONOUR

The title 'Vessels of Honour' tells the Bible view that women are honoured and accountable throughout the Bible and especially in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Women need this message, and will relish the spiritual uplift of discovering their honoured place in the family of God.

JESUS TALKS TO WOMEN:

helps you discover how remarkable Jesus' attitude to women was in a day when men thought women less than men.

WOMEN AT WORK IN THE BIBLE:

Discover the value God places on women. Most teaching about women is on devotional life or family concerns, forgetting the majority hours women spend on work. 'Women at Work in the Bible' fits this gap.



Beulah Wood, BD, D.Min, is a New Zealander who has taught for over 20 years in India and Nepal. Among the more than 30 books she has written and co-written the many on women, men and family reveal her deep concern to promote the honour of God's name by teaching the honour God gives to women.



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