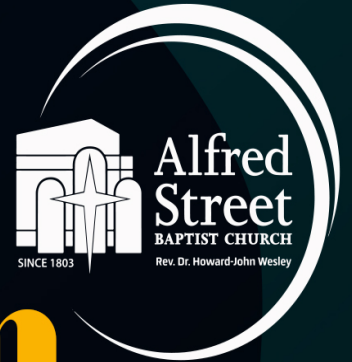




**MARCH 13-14, 2021**  
**JOHN 2: 1-11 (NIV)**

A SERMON SERIES BY

**REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY** | @PASTORHJW



**I'm  
SPEAKING**  
**PART 1**



**Sunday, March 14, 2021**

**Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John**

**Wesley Sermon: "I'm Speaking"**

**Scripture: John 2:1-11 (NIV)**

**CURRICULUM  
GUIDE**



## Sermon Summary

The ministry of Jesus was initiated by the words of a woman, Mary, the mother of Jesus. When Christ is involved there are always unseen answers, possibilities, and miracles available. Regardless of your station in life, you cannot detach yourself from the problems of your community. We need more Marys: people who believe in us, speak possibilities over our lives, and encourage us even before we can even discern God's plan and purpose for our lives. Even if you don't know what answer you need to a problem, believe that God will answer perfectly. When the answer appears make sure that you know and remember where "the good stuff came from." God's best is always better than yours so do whatever the Lord tells you to do because you can take God at God's word. Someone needs to be encouraged by what the Lord has done for you. When you share what the Lord has done for you maybe then you give others the opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ.

## Notes for Facilitators:

Welcome to Week 7. This week's KEY POINTS have been combined with the SERMON SUMMARY section. Please be sure to remind Villagers that the Curriculum Guides are always available for download from the ASBC website under the Member/Disciple Needs >Village > Curriculum Guides tabs.



# Getting To Know You Questions:

- 1) The sermon begins with Pastor referencing the 2020 Vice Presidential Debate between then Senator Kamala Harris and former Vice President Mike Pence. Pence used white patriarchal rhetorical tools during the debate. Additionally, the moderator, Susan Page (not Pace) used white feminist privilege. Are you familiar with white patriarchy and white feminist privilege? Can you think of any examples where it has been used against you?
- 2) One of the qualities Mary possessed was the ability to inspire and see good or potential in others that they may not have seen in themselves. Have you ever had a “Mary” in your life? What did they see in you that you did not see in yourself? How did they inspire you?





## Into The Bible Questions:

- 1) Pastor Wesley mentions that John 2 illustrates one example of the tremendous influence Jesus' mother Mary had on him. If you had/have a mother figure in your life, has she or he had any influence (positive or negative) on you? If so, what are some examples?
- 2) Pastor Wesley suggests that Mary cared about the wedding celebration running out of wine--a problem that was not her own or Jesus'--because she was concerned about the welfare of her community. Pastor explained that because of proximity Cana of Galilee and Nazareth of Galilee could be considered as one community. Therefore, Mary made sure to address a problem that would affect everyone even if she did not have to. Can you discuss other Bible stories where proximity impacts how characters behave?



## Life Application Questions:

- 1) What are the community-related issues you have a passion for resolving?
- 2) Why do you think Mary speaks up in this story? How have you responded in situations where you could speak up or remain silent?
- 3) In John 2, Mary's faith allows for Jesus to perform the miracle of transforming water into wine, providing the exact need/resource that was required. How can individuals and the church work to ensure that our service to others is motivated by, and actually addresses, the needs of others?

## "Can I Push It?"

- 1) We find out that at the wedding the wine runs out but we don't know why this happens. Symbolically in life, we can give our utmost, yet the "wine runs out" and we fall short of achieving certain goals or fulfilling certain expectations. Have you experienced a "wine runs out" circumstance? Upon reflection, what did you learn about yourself and the Lord?
- 2) Do you agree that we must still be responsible for the problems of our communities or have we evolved beyond the "front porch" sense of community that Pastor Wesley talked about?

## Activity:

Remember or imagine sitting on a front porch. What are 2 issues that are prevalent from your front porch perspective? Share with the group.



# Spirit Work:

Pastor Wesley said that your story may be all someone needs to know to put their trust in Jesus. What is your testimony today? Share it this week with someone who may need to know.

## **Additional Questions for Married Couples:**

How do you encourage your spouse or demonstrate your belief in their ability to succeed when they are in doubt?

## **Additional Questions for Young Adults:**

The real miracle was not Jesus turning water into wine or a woman refusing to be silenced. What efforts have you taken to figuratively “change water into wine” by taking responsibility to improve issues in your communities or refusing to remain silent?

## **Additional Questions for Parents:**

How can you teach your children to be a Mary in someone’s life?

## **Additional Questions for Women:**

Have you ever used your position of leadership or authority to implement change? If so, describe.

## **Additional Questions for Men:**

How do you acknowledge and inform others of the Marys in your own life and/or throughout history? Do you think the qualities they embodied are gender specific? Discuss



## Readings for This Week

John 2-12	

### Further Study and Resources

Self-Care Guide: <https://www.alfredstreet.org/selah/>

Clark-Soles, Jaime, and Fentress-Williams, Judy, et al. The CEB Women's Bible. Common English Bible, 2016, pp. 1339-1340.

Fentress-Williams, Judy. Holy Imagination. Abingdon Press, 2021, pp. 276-285.

Tubbs, Anna Malaika. The Three Mothers: How The Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, And James Baldwin Shaped a Nation. Flatiron Books, 2021.