

## **“Best Advice Ever!”**

Where do you go for advice? To a parent, sibling, or trusted friend? You could write “Dear Abbey” (Yes, that old newspaper column still exists!). Or perhaps you put all your trust in your financial advisor. I recently heard the ultimate answer. Two Sundays ago our pastor preached on the account of Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11). When the wine runs out – a huge social *faux pas* – Mary reports the problem to her grown son Jesus. Then she simply says to the servants, “*Do whatever He tells you.*” At this point in the story, Pastor Eric exclaimed, “Best advice ever!” It struck me at once that truer words were never spoken: Do whatever Jesus tells you. That’s always the best policy.

*Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” They filled them to the brim. And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. 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 [said to the bridegroom], “Everyone serves the good wine first... but you have kept the good wine until now.”*

When I’d read this passage before, I’d naturally focused on Jesus’ miracle, missing the weight and wisdom of Mary’s words: Do whatever Jesus tells you. The servants took this excellent advice, following Jesus’ instructions immediately, exactly, and with no questions asked, even though they were not obligated to do so (Jesus wasn’t their master). Filling those large jars would have been a lot of work. Then at some personal risk, I imagine, they presented that water, become wine, to the master of the feast. But because of their obedience, the servants were richly blessed – not just hearing about or even simply witnessing the miracle, but having the privilege of actually participating in it.

Jesus, who was and is all powerful, didn’t really need the servants’ help any more than he needs our help to accomplish his purposes today. Yet he invites us to be his hands and feet and voice in the world, to experience the blessing of participating in God’s miraculous work. What could be more important or fulfilling? Accept Mary’s advice. Seek Jesus’ will through prayer and Bible study. And then do it, even if it costs you something. Since being out of God’s will is the most dangerous place to dwell, doing whatever Jesus tells us is always the best advice.

S. Johnson