The Mystery of Prayer

This passage encourages us to bring our needs and problems to Jesus, and it teaches us how to approach Him. When you pray—

**1. Submit to the *Agenda* of Jesus**

A. Jesus gently *rebuked* Mary

B. Jesus had a *predetermined* plan

**2. Trust in the *Generosity* of Jesus**

The quiet confidence of Mary was justified because—

A. He met the need of the *moment*

B. He gave a *significant* gift to the couple

**3. Adopt the *Goals* of Jesus**

Which are—

A. To manifest His glory *in His way*

B. To produce *faith* in Himself

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. Some people say, “If God is sovereign and has everything planned out already, why should we bother to pray?” What is wrong with that logic? What does Christ tell us to do (Luke 11:1-13)? How do our duties fit in with the secret plans of God (Deuteronomy 29:29)?

**Additional Notes:**

**John 2:4**. “What does that have to do with us?” does not capture the thought adequately. The expression is literally, “What to Me and to you?” Wherever it appears in Scripture, that phrase implies some degree of reproach or difference of outlook. See Judges 11:12; 2 Samuel 16:10; Luke 8:28. Jesus is distancing Himself from His mother. She must not assume that she, as His mother, has any special “pull” with Him (see also Mark 3:20-21, 31-35; Luke 11:27-28), nor can her agenda interfere with His.

**John 2:4**. “My hour”—see John7:6, 8 (“My time”); 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27;13:1; 17:1.

**John 2:9**. The wine was certainly alcoholic. However, wine used as a beverage was normally served diluted (most often one part wine with three parts water). Wine (probably undiluted) is sometimes paired with “strong drink” (perhaps a kind of beer). In these cases, there is frequently an element of reproach (Proverbs 20:1; 31:4; Isaiah 5:11, 22; 28:7).