

Hebrew term is *mayim rishonim*), and after a meal is known as *last waters* (the Hebrew term is *mayim aharonim*). The first term has generally fallen from contemporary usage; the second term has stuck. The modern term for the former is *Ntillat yadayim*, washing of hands. Washing before meals is normative in Orthodox Judaism.

Halakha (Jewish law) requires that the water used for ritual washing be naturally pure, unused, not contain other substances, and not be discoloured. The water also must be poured from a vessel as a human act, on the basis of references in the Bible to this practice, e.g. Elisha pouring water upon the hands of Elijah. Water should be poured on each hand at least twice. A clean dry substance should be used instead if water is unavailable

9 When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, 10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Why would Jesus have let only the servants know where the wine came from?

Did Jesus do this prematurely, given His comment in verse 4?

Do you think there was any meaning to Jesus using vessels for cleansing to serve wine from?

What is meant by "glory" in verse 11?

*12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He and **His mother and His brothers and His disciples**; and they stayed there a few days.*

At this point we see Jesus traveling with His family and His disciples together. How do you think his family saw His taking on the role of a Rabbi at this point?
