

## The Second Sunday after The Epiphany (2018)

### Saint John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.<sup>[a]</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up 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 of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

In the Name of Jesus.

Dearly beloved in Christ:

What do we NOT receive from this sign? Faith, prayer, even LOVE abounding, from the God MOSES could not see—but Whose face the apostles saw, and we will see, in the face of Jesus, Mary’s Son, Whose first sign was at a wedding in Cana, of Galilee.

He manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

Lemme do a real ‘Lutheran’ call to repentance about Mary, the mother of our Lord!

We have brother and sister Christians whom we Lutherans consider to make something out of Jesus mommy that she is not. However, my dear ones, let us not LOSE the glory that she is, Mary, the mother of our Lord.

She, like all of us, needed a Savior from her sin: but she BORE the Savior, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!

Some of our fellow-redeemed get confused, making Saint Mary shoulder some of the work and merit of taking away our sins. Of course, she did not; there is One God, and One Mediator between God and men: the Man Christ Jesus.

But she bore ENOUGH! And for what she bore, we should be truly thankful to our God; and to Mary's Son, Jesus our Savior!

No amount of writing the Bible, as the apostles did, or preaching, as many mouths have through the ages, can compare to DELIVERING the Son of God in our Flesh! Now, THAT is a theologian! A preacher! A disciple! A mother!

For Jesus, in John 2; but then also for the Beloved disciple, in John 19. 'Behold! Your mother! Behold! Your son!'

At Cana, with a word, directing the servants to save the day and the wedding; at Calvary, with a word, before His death, He brought to life Love between His family, those who, He says, 'Remain in My Word.'

His Word, my dear ones, is not of course any series of vocabulary, nouns and verbs and such. But the Whole Deal His Father—now OUR Father!—sent Him to Arrange for us! That we may throw ourselves into our religion—faith, prayer, love—and YET make no claim on God, beyond the claim HE has now on....who? The WORLD!

What I mean, is that Mary simply lets her Boy know that the wine's run out at a wedding. What could be WORSE?!

And despite His question about what this all has to do with Him or her, Mary waits with the steadiness of believing which is all we could ask of the Spirit of Jesus. 'Do whatever He says,' she directs the servants.

What prompted His family-making at the Cross? John and Mary, Mary and John? They were just standing there. And He answered the prayer He knew they had without their need of turning it into vocabulary.

Such prayer flows from such believing. Mary's place is to ask, with all boldness and confidence. EVERYTHING ELSE, is....BENEATH her!

And so the disciples believed in Jesus too. And soon, we learn from the Gospel that even that ‘believing’ can be warped into some sort of work on OUR part, supplementing, even SUPPLANTING the Work the Father sent Jesus to do. And that just will NOT do!

And so we read things in John’s Gospel such as:

They believed in Him; but Jesus did NOT ENTRUST Himself to them; for He knew what was in men’s hearts.

To those who had BELIEVE IN HIM, Jesus said, ‘IF y’all remain in My Word, you will know the Gospel, the Truth, and the Truth will set you free!’

Praise God, my friends! Praise His Name!

E...V...E...R...Y...T...H...I...N...G NOW, about God, about us, is OUT....OF...OUR...HANDS!

So if you have a tough time praying—then DON'T! If by 'praying' you begin to mean working up a grant-request to heaven, convincing your God, getting His attention!

Instead, since you have been baptized at HIS authority, simply LIST what is on your heart! Or just BE THERE, before your God: contemplate the Passion; receive the Lord's Supper; EMBRACE your fellow man, and share his world, his pain, his problems with God! And now, since God's glory has been shown to all in the Son of Mary, YOUR God will answer a prayer  
YOU...DON'...EVEN...NEED...VOCALIZE!

Same thing if LOVE is outside your power! Attaching yourself to those who CANNOT benefit you in any way! In fact, who can only TAKE from you, without any hope of reciprocity!

I don't have it in me to love like that! No problem! The Work of Love belongs to the Son! And, 'It is finished!'

And so the burden WE dream is on US to love, is just more that we may now lay on Jesus, lay before Jesus, and

then wait with confident expectation, that He will accomplish vastly more than we could even dream!

Like giving us His Body and His Blood to eat and to drink, for the Life of the World!

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Praise God in the Name of Jesus. Amen.