

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
 Year of the Lord 2019  
 John 2

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;  
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”  
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!  
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee!”**

**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. 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:

...standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary

Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. <sup>1</sup>

So...He cares for His mother, to the End; when His hour had finally come! Thus, sanctifying all those gifts and arrangements the God we cannot see has given the world—and the world cares not: marriage, children, care for the elderly. For now, in Jesus, among His disciples, and with His NEW gifts, God is the complete opposite of ‘unseen!’

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” <sup>2</sup>

His mother got the earliest glimpse! She carried Him for those months; then delivered This: <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>3</sup>

There’s no getting around the fact that His words to His mother were at least abrupt, if not a little snippy! **“Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”**

1     God moves in a mysterious way  
        His wonders to perform;  
        He plants His footsteps in the sea  
        And rides upon the storm.

<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 19:25–27). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>2</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 14:8–9). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>3</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 1:14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

2 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
 But trust Him for His grace;  
 Behind a frowning providence  
 Faith sees a smiling face.

Jesus' mother received the Word made flesh as none of us will. But let us not DEMOTE the mother of Jesus to something less than saint, less than sinner, less that one who believes in Him too!

Directions to the servants not only solve that day's little problem—contrasted with HIS hour, Passion, death—so says Heaven?! But the Son of this mother had revealed:

<sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”<sup>4</sup>

THE LAW, Moses' Law, says that what should PANIC us today and take away our peace and rest—and what we ought be earnest in prayer about to our offended God!!—is our utter FAILURE at love for God and for our fellow man!!!

Yes...that's Moses! But through Jesus Christ came Grace and Truth—and there's no Law covering THAT!

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<sup>4</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 6:37–40). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

So...life's little concerns—which we might belittle, JUDGING...BY...THE...LAW, by comparisons and importances and measuring and weighing—Heaven, the Father now seen among His own—Heaven has nothing more pressing on the agenda than the solving of the mole-hill you and I turn into mountain daily and much.

Jesus forgave the request of His mother—as He forgives each petition we offer Him; Saint Paul writes, Romans 8:

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.<sup>5</sup>

Dear saints, please tell you poor miserable sinner-pastor that I am not alone! Nod and comfort me that I am not unique among sinner-saints.

It is not just Pastor Obsession and Pastor Compulsion and Pastor Personality Disorder praying; let us not DEMOTE my problem! My so-called praying: I must fill with detail upon detail, and the sincerity of my focus on God, and my goodwill in asking, and even explanations—EXPLANATIONS...TO...GODDDDD!!!!—educating Heaven about why what I'm praying for, asking for, would best be given WHEN I figure, AS I figure, for the OUTCOME on which I am counting.....Ugh!

Nod, please! I'm not alone am I?

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<sup>5</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 8:26–27). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

The mother of Jesus prayed best; and was...frowned on???  
 And yet, even before His disciples put their faith in Him,  
 AFTER that day's crisis was MORE than averted—blessed,  
 flooded, surpassed, NEVER was wine like THAT!...

***His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.***

Did Jesus' mother not hear the tone of His voice? And what LOOK on His face did mommy read like a book?!  
 “Woman! What is this to you and Me! My HOUR is MY focus!” Jesus' mother had the Book down pat, the WHOLE Book:

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. <sup>6</sup>

There was so much faith looking behind all the dark clouds of heaven and earth, that Jesus' mother even went to the LAST place any MAN would direct her to be proud of her Boy, and to seek His help:

...standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother...

There are only a few places this world will scorn more than that sad cross with that sad King and His sad mommy. But if we learn anything from Him today—and mom!—we behold His true glory.

You have been baptized at the authority of This King. So no concern behind or ahead of you is

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<sup>6</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 1:17–18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

MORE...YOUR...CONCERN... than that of your Father.  
You have His ear.

You have been fed with a Bread that is His Body and with  
Wine that no man ever hoped to serve: the Blood that  
poured out:

<sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already  
dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers  
pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out  
blood and water. <sup>35</sup> He who saw it has borne witness—his  
testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—  
that you also may believe. <sup>367</sup>

So, so, so...my dear ones.

His disciples caught up a bit with Jesus' mother that day:  
This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and  
manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Then OTHERS believed in Him; and John gave a caveat:

<sup>23</sup> Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast,  
many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he  
was doing. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to  
them, because he knew all people <sup>25</sup> and needed no one to  
bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in  
man. <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 19:33–36). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>8</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 2:23–25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Beloved of God: when you pray—me too!—we are going to pray poorly! The wedding at Cana bids us pray, nevertheless!

There is ALWAYS a SELF-INTEREST in our believing in Jesus, our faith in Him: ‘This will get me somewhere, right? God sees?’ Yet believing in Him is called for! For whatever weight we lay on Him and His promises—with all our mixed motives—He will accept, as He accepts us, and pardons it all.

It would be no wonder if, after our prayers together, or in private, Heaven would burst open and we would hear: ‘You know, I am FAR more worried about your love for God and your love for your fellow man pouring out from you, than I am worried that you will not received this or that little trinket or favor on which your heart is set this SECOND!!’

But after the wedding at Cana and His help for that poor couple, that poor feast, and His poor mother, our confidence may be—NOW!!!—that what WE think is our MOST PURE PRAYER is still soiled; and that what HEAVEN, or what the LAW might call a prayer of self-centeredness, the Grace and Truth revealed in Christ cleanses so much, that our Father in heaven has nothing more pressing on His agenda today than to hear our prayers in the Name of Jesus! Amen!