

THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY AD 2025
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
KURTZVILLE, ONTARIO
REV. KURT REINHARDT

John 2:1-12

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.

After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

They have no wine. So what?! Yes, beloved, at first glance this wedding wine business, doesn't seem like that big of a deal. Especially for people like you and me, who don't have all the Jewish baggage about hospitality. Sure, most of us like to treat our guests well and feel bad if we don't have, or run out of anything that they might like, but, no, we wouldn't think it was a catastrophe. If they drank up all the wine that we had, we'd probably think that they'd had enough and that maybe we should think about taking their keys away.

They have no wine. So what Mary? What's the problem? What's the big deal? So Jesus seems to say, as He replies to his mother, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." Sure the couple would end up looking bad and it would be a sour note on their special day, but is it really something that should be brought to Jesus? Is it really something worth troubling the Son of God over? Something to get Him to reveal His glory over? Well, Mary seemed to think so, which perhaps tells us that we should think so too. Especially, as we see Jesus, doing something about it.

Yes, beloved, the first thing that we should see and learn today, is that nothing in our lives is too small or unimportant to bring to Jesus. No trouble, no need is too small to bother Him about, whether it's our own troubles and needs or the troubles and needs of others. Yes, Mary has much to teach us here about our life of prayer for ourselves and others, as she doesn't hesitate to bring this simple need to her Son, and even when He seems to put her off, she quietly leaves it with Him, trusting that He will do what He knows is best. Yes, Mary, with her "let it be to me according to your Word" and her "Do whatever He tells you" is the first and foremost in a long line of women in the Gospel who show us how to pray in faith, and we'd do well to follow hers and their example.

While all this is most certainly true, the question still remains, so what's the big deal? What's going on here that's so special? Sure the whole thing is quite folksy and nice. Who doesn't like a wedding? What better way to start the whole Gospel story? To grab people's attention? Pull at their heartstrings and pull them in? Yes, its all wonderful and nice to see Jesus going to a wedding, especially in our day and age, to show that He kind of supports the whole thing and wants to be involved in it and bless it with His presence, on the Wedding day and throughout our married lives. Yes, it's nice to see Jesus, showing by His presence in Cana, that those "I dos" and that piece of paper, that so many dismiss in our day, really do mean something and are special.

So, okay, we should bring even the little things to Jesus, and yes, marriage matters to God, but is that it? Do those things really deserve all the attention that John gives to this account in His Gospel? Does the changing of the water into wine really deserve to be called the first of Jesus signs? Meaning not only that it was at the head of the line, but the foremost of them all that helps you unpack all the others? Does it really deserve to have the third day highlighting that John gives to it? Yes, beloved, On the third day, is a phrase that should make every Christian sit up and pay attention, because of what we know happened on the third day after Good Friday. So, does this wedding wine miracle really deserve the bold print that John puts it in when he starts out the whole account, with on the third day? Can it really have anything to do with the the hour of Christ's death and His resurrection?

Indeed, it does, beloved, in so many beautiful ways, this wedding wine miracle is a foreword and preface to all the other miracles and a preamble to the Lord's death and resurrection. To begin with the changing of the water into wine is a revelation of who Jesus is, as it reveals Him as the one behind the greater miracle that happens all the time, where water is turned into grape juice, through the earth and sun and rain and is made into wine by the yeast that combines with it from the air. What Jesus does in Cana is simply what He has been doing since the Father said let there be through Him at the dawn of time. The little miracle revealing Him as the author of the greater one - revealing Him as the God who makes water into wine every day through His creation.

So the water turning into wine, reveals that Mary's Son is the Lord, and when He does it on the third day after His baptism in the Jordan at a wedding feast, using water from six stone jars, that were used for the Jewish rites of purification, He reveals what He has come to do for His people. When the Lamb of God who is bearing away the sins of the world shows up on the third day after His Baptism as the heavenly bridegroom at a wedding Feast to make it glad with His gift of the best wine - you've got the Lord showing us that His Baptism leads into His marriage feast where our joy will have no end. When you've got the Lamb of God who is bearing away the sins of the world changing the Old Testament water of purification in 6 stone jars into blood red wine on the 3rd day after His Baptism, you got the Lord showing us that He has come to fulfill the cleansing of the Old Testament with the gift of His purifying blood, that will cleanse us through Baptism from all our sin and shame. Yes, there's an awful lot going on at the wedding today to manifest Jesus' glory, which is why His disciples believed in Him.

And you would do well, to believe in Him too, beloved, because what Jesus showed forth in Cana, He has truly done for you. He is your God made man to provide for all your needs and save and rescue you from your sins and shame. He is the Lamb of God who was baptized to take away your sins by picking them up and bearing them away to Calvary, so that He could purify you by washing them away with His blood. He is the Lamb of God, who takes away your sins so that you can enter into His marriage feast that has no end to drink the wine of joy and gladness with Him in His kingdom forever. He is the Lamb of God who takes away your sins so that you can be God's beloved child in this time and into all eternity.

Yes, beloved, just a bit of a big deal, as all things always are with Jesus, just a bit of a big deal going on in Cana today, whose fullness is all lived out in this hour, as the Son of God joins us in this marriage Feast around His altar as our heavenly Bridegroom who shares His life with us in His body and blood, so that we might lift up His cup of salvation here and call on the name of the Lord, as all our sins are washed away with His blood and we are declared righteous because of Him. And so, come, beloved, taste and see that the Lord is good, and that His steadfast love endures forever. Amen