

JESUS REVEALS GOD'S GLORY

January 17, 2010

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Old Testament Lesson; Isaiah 61:1-6

Epistle Lesson; Romans 12:6-16

Sermon Text; John 2:1-11

There was once was a Sunday School Teacher who asked her class what their favorite Bible story was, or what their favorite account from scripture was. Most of the students answered with very well-known, popular Bible stories, like *David and Goliath*, *Daniel in the Lion's Den*, *The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace*, or *Jonah and the Big Fish*. But, there was one girl who said, “My favorite Bible story in scripture is *The Wedding at Cana*.”

That surprised the Sunday School teacher, so she asked a follow-up question to the little girl, “Why is that account in scripture your favorite?”

That little girl said, “I like that story, because I want Jesus to be at my wedding, too.”

What a beautiful response that little girl gave. She knew, and she understood, Jesus had been an invited guest at the wedding in Cana. Jesus blessed that wedding with His presence. The little girl wanted Jesus to be an invited guest, and she wanted her wedding day, and also her marriage, to be blessed with Jesus' presence.

Oftentimes in marriages, when problems occur, sometimes it can be because Jesus is not an invited guest, or because Jesus' presence is lacking in that marriage.

Today we see Jesus going to this wedding He had been invited to. Not only were Jesus and His disciples invited to this wedding, but

also Mary was invited there, as well.

Let me just back up one step today and talk about a few of the things that happened before this day. Let's look at a little time-line, here.

-It was just prior to this when Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River.

-It was just prior to this that Jesus had spent forty days out in the Judean wilderness being tempted by the devil.

-It was just prior to this that Jesus had chosen, or selected, six disciples. (There were not twelve disciples, just yet.) The disciples He had picked so far were: Andrew and Peter, Philip and Nathaniel, James and John.

Mary had been invited to this wedding. We notice Joseph's name is not included here, and probably it is the case that he has died at this point. Jesus and His six disciples also came as guests to this wedding banquet. Remember that in Israel a wedding celebration lasted for seven days. That seven day festival began with the marriage ceremony. After which, there was a long procession from the marriage celebration to the couple's house. The bride and groom, along with all the invited guests, would form a processional line, and they would go to the couple's new house, which was an addition built on the groom's father's house. The bride and groom did not go on a honeymoon, rather they held an open house at their place for seven days.

Mary comes to Jesus and says they have run out of wine. Imagine if all of your family and friends come over to your house for a whole week, and you have run out of things for them to drink. That would be pretty embarrassing, wouldn't it? Well, today in our text, we see Mary coming to Jesus for help. She says to Jesus, "They have no more wine."

Today we see Jesus revealing His glory to Mary. Notice Jesus' response to His mother, Mary. He says, "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Now, it is not a derogatory statement Jesus makes

here. He is not looking down upon His mother. He is just looking at her as a person. Why do you involve me? It is really as if Jesus is saying, *“This matter does not concern you. This matter concerns me.”*

Now, it hasn't been so much recently, but when my two children, Benjamin and Kira were younger, sometimes my wife Katie and I would use the phrase, “Who is the parent?” We would use that phrase in situations when Benjamin and Kira would try acting as parents and telling each other what to do. We were reminding them, *“That is our responsibility to be the parent. You be the child. This matter concerns me, as a parent. This matter doesn't concern you.”* Well, Jesus tells His mother, Mary, *“This matter doesn't concern you. This matter concerns me.”*

Notice who it is that Mary went to for help.

Mary went to Jesus for help.

That should be a reminder in our lives that we, also go to Jesus for help.

We should go to Jesus in our life of prayer.

This morning I am holding in my hand a rosary. We, in the Lutheran church, do not use a rosary, but there are millions of people around the world, who use a rosary and offer their prayers to the wrong person. We are not to pray to dead people. We are not to pray to saints. We are not to pray to Mary. And today, we even see Jesus' mother coming to Him, asking for help.

We also should go to Jesus for help.

We should go to Jesus in our life of prayer. Just as He helped out this couple at the wedding in Cana, Jesus also promises to hear our prayer, and to help us as well.

Another part of Jesus' response is He reveals His glory to His mother, Mary, as He says, “My time has not yet come.” Every part of Jesus' ministry had a predetermined time to it. Go back to Jesus' conception and birth. The Bible tells us,

“When the fullness of time had come,
God sent His Son.”

It happened at the right time, the predetermined time. Even Jesus' death on the cross happened at a very determined time in history. It was at the same time that the sacrificial lamb was sacrificed to pay for the sins of the people. When Jesus died at 3:00 on Good Friday, it was the time that was predetermined that Jesus would pay for the sins of the whole world.

Even the events of our life are determined. It is the book of Job it says,

“Our days are determined.”

In the book of Ecclesiastes we hear,

“There is a time to be born
and a time to die.”

Today in our text we see Mary's wonderful model of faith. She believes the words that Jesus says, and quickly tells the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.” May we, in our lives of faith, follow the model Mary sets for us in our text for today and follow what it is Jesus, in His Word, tells us to do. Scripture is very clear about how it is that we get to Heaven. Jesus said,

“I am the way and the truth and the light.
No one comes to the Father
except through me.”

There are many people in the world who believe we can get to Heaven without Jesus and yet, following Mary's model of faith, we should follow what God's Word tells us to do. There are also controversial things that are recorded in scripture. And instead of saying, “*This is what I believe, because this is my opinion.*” Rather, we should follow what God's Word says, and following Mary's model of faith, say as she did,

“Do whatever He tells you.”

Now, Jesus in our text for today, not only reveals His glory to His

mother, Mary, but He also reveals His glory first of all to the servants, to the master of the wedding banquet, to the bride and groom, and also to all of the guests who were invited to that wedding. Consider the servants who were at this wedding celebration. They were the ones who were lowest in status, and yet they were the ones who witnessed this miracle of our Savior, Jesus. It is then the master of the wedding banquet, also the bride and groom, and all of the guests, who taste the miracle Jesus had performed.

When our text tells us that at this time the people had drunk freely, it does not mean that they were drunk, because scripture speaks against that. Rather, it means they had had enough to drink and the wine had run out. And so, Jesus performs this miracle of changing water into wine.

In my hand, this morning, is one gallon of communion wine we use, here at Holy Cross. Consider the amount Jesus changed from water into wine. It was not just one simple gallon, but our text tells us the six stone water jars each held 20 to 30 gallons. Doing simple math, that is 120 gallons to 180 gallons of wine! Certainly, an ample and rich supply Jesus provided for all of those wedding guests.

As we look at our text for today, I want us to see that not only did Jesus reveal His glory to Mary, to the servants, to the master of the wedding banquet, to the bride, groom and the guests, but He also revealed His glory to His disciples. Our text for today tells us the disciples put their faith in Jesus and they believed in Him.

Dear fellow redeemed, our Savior, Jesus also wants to reveal His glory to you. As we see this very first miraculous sign of Jesus, of changing water into wine, the water into wine should remind us of the blood and the water that Jesus shed on the cross, as He paid for each and every one of our sins. The changing of water into wine should remind us of the two sacraments we have in the Lutheran church. Baptism, where God uses simple water and word and the

Holy Spirit brings us to faith to believe in Jesus as our Savior. We should also see the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, how God uses Christ's body and Christ's blood to give us the forgiveness of sin. It would have been impossible for the guests at the marriage festival, the wedding banquet to drink all of the wine Jesus had provided them. He had given them an ample, rich, and overflowing supply. God, in your life, also gives to you, abundantly. Consider what God, our Heavenly Father, has done to you, what God our Heavenly Father has done to us. He has taken us, who are empty, and who are void of faith, because of our sin. He has filled us with faith. He has worked through water. He has worked through blood to bring us to faith to believe in Jesus, as our Savior. He has filled us, who were empty and void, and He has changed us from sinners into saints! The end of John's gospel, near the very end of his gospel, he closes by saying this phrase. (What we looked at today was the first of Jesus' miraculous signs.) John closes by saying, "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book (the book of John). But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. And that by believing, you may have life in His name." Once again, today, we praise God, our Heavenly Father, that Jesus has revealed His glory to us. He has brought us to faith. He has given us that precious gift of everlasting life with Him, in Heaven. Amen