

*On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*

*Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*

**Jesus reveals himself as true God**

- I. He blesses us with his presence.**
- II. He provides for our needs at just the right time.**
- III. He reveals his glory through miracles.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Have you ever been to an unforgettable wedding other than your own? A wedding that is so memorable you are still talking about it at the couples 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As memorable as it may have been there is no wedding that has been talked about more than the wedding at Cana. The events of this wedding have been printed in over 2,000 languages and shared around the world. Almost 2,000 years after that wedding took place we are still talking about it. But does it at all seem strange that this wedding has received so much publicity and we don't even know whose wedding it is?

Why was this event so important that God chose to record it for us in His Word? This wedding at Cana was important because it was where Jesus first publicly revealed himself as true God. Jesus is not simply another man who walked this earth, or a great teacher for his students to model their lives after. Jesus is not just another wedding guest who gave the most unforgettable toast. Jesus is true God. As God, Jesus blessed the newlyweds and their guests with His presence, He provided for their needs at just the right time, and He revealed His glory to them through this miracle of changing water into wine.

**I. He blesses us with his presence.**

The Gospel writers carefully detail the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. We know that near the age of 30 Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan. We know Jesus was tempted in the desert for 40 days. From John we are even told of the events that took place during the days leading up to our text for today.

Only two days earlier we are told that John the Baptist saw Jesus and pointing to him said to his disciples, **'Look the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'**. There He is, John testified. He is the Lamb who was sent from God, the Lamb who is God and who has come to shed his blood for your salvation. We are told Andrew, one of John's disciples, and his brother Peter spent the day with Jesus. And on the next day Philip and Nathaniel also began to follow Jesus as his disciples. And on the third day **"a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding"**.

The fact that Jesus goes to this wedding tells us something about our God, doesn't it? God is not distant from us or too far to know what is going on in our lives but He is always active in our preservation. Our God is a God who is close. If you want to see God... look to Jesus. See how Jesus blessed the happy couple by being a guest at their wedding. He honored them with His presence.

Jesus does the same for us today. Jesus has promised that where two or three gather in His name there He is also. And unlike men who are limited by time and space, only God can be present with us right now while at the same time with your children and grandchildren as they perhaps are gathering elsewhere for worship this morning. God is with us this morning just as He is with the believers in China who are heading off to bed, just as He is with the believer in Haiti who under a pile of rubble appears to be all along separated from family and friends. There is no event, moment, time in your life when Jesus will not be with you.

We can trust that God who knows our needs will do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine. That is something the newlywed couple would soon learn.

In Jesus' day a wedding celebration could easily last a week. During this time we are told of a situation that almost brought the wedding to a halt. On perhaps the most important day of their lives, while surrounded by the most important people in their lives the wine runs out! That has to be on a bride's top ten list of Wedding Day Woes. Mary wanted to spare them of any embarrassment. So she said to Jesus, **"They have no more wine."** We don't know what Mary other than she trusted Jesus

could and would help in this time of need. But Jesus' response may not have been what she expected.

## II. He provides for our needs at just the right time.

Jesus said, "**Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come.**" With these words, Jesus did not want anyone, even his mother, to lose sight of why He came into this world. Jesus came to do His Father's will. His Father's will is that "all men be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth". The salvation of that couple in Cana was far more important than having a sufficient supply of wine.

Jesus would reveal himself as Savior, but on his own time and in his own way. Mary understood that. She said to the servants, "**Do whatever he tells you.**" If he tells you to gather up all the guests so he can have a word with them, do it. If he tells you to go to the next town and buy some more wine, do it. Anything this man says, do it.

And we are told that without making a scene or drawing any attention to Himself, Jesus told the servants to fill six jars to the top with water so that there would be no chance of anyone accusing Jesus of spiking the water. Without even touching the water or the jars, he told them to draw from one of the jars and take it to the master of the banquet to taste. And what was the result? It was some of the best wine he'd ever had! God not only provides for exactly what we need, at just the right time, but He provides more than we ask and gives us blessings that are better than we could ever imagine.

Do you trust Jesus and expect that he will provide for you? By that I mean do you have absolute confidence that your Good Shepherd will never leave you in want? You know you are supposed to, you know that you can...but do you? The problem is not that you and I don't believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God and that he will help us when we need it. The problem is that we don't always trust that he will help us in the way we want him to help.

When face with a financial crisis we would rather pray that God would grant us a checking account that never dries up rather than asking God that we seek first His kingdom trusting that when we do He will bless us in so many ways. When persecuted for our faith, we would rather God smite our enemies than learn what it means to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ. When a catastrophe strikes and hundred or even thousands are left dead, we might question God's goodness rather than asking God to use us and the blessings He has given us to aid in the suffering of others and to let our own light shine when we face hardships.

Jesus did not come so that all our earthly needs would be taken care of. He came because we were in deep spiritual need. Yet in his kindness and love we see how God more than provides for our needs as well. Jesus answers our prayers, but not always for the reason or in the way we'd expect.

## III. He reveals his glory through miracles.

Jesus demonstrated this by doing what only God could do, He changed water into wine. "**This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee.**" Just as a street sign tells you where you are, Jesus' miraculous signs show people who He is. It was as if Jesus was holding up a sign above himself at every miracle that said, "I am God".

We are told that He revealed His glory and His disciples put their trust in Him. This doesn't mean his disciples didn't believe in him before this. This miracle didn't create faith. The day before the wedding Nathanael confessed his faith when he said, "**(Jesus), you are the Son of God**" (Jn 1:49). The purpose of this miracle was to strengthen their faith in Christ Jesus, just as Jesus' other miracles would do for them.

When Jesus stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee the disciples were amazed and saw how Jesus as true God controlled both wind and waves and had power over nature. When Jesus took the bread and fish and not once, but twice, fed thousands of His followers both times the disciples were right there filling their baskets with the pieces left over and saw how Jesus as true God had the power to provide for the needs of His children. When Jesus again and again healed all those who were brought to Him the disciples saw that Jesus had power over sickness, disease, even death.

Jesus held up signs that showed who he is and revealed his glory- the first was at Cana the greatest was at His resurrection because he wants there to be no doubt in your mind that the only one who perfectly practiced what he preached didn't just do it for himself, but for you. So that you can stake your eternal life on his death because it wasn't just a man who gave up his life for you but God himself. It was God himself who took your sins away from you. There can be no mistake about it. Your sins are forgiven.

Jesus' miracles strengthen our faith in him as we witness them through God's Word. Our faith is not only strengthened from Jesus' miracles written down in Scripture because we also benefit from the miracle of baptism when our sins are washed away through the water and Word. We also benefit from the miracle of the Lord's Supper when Jesus' body and blood are visibly ours to strengthen our faith in him.

Continue to hear and believe the Gospel in Word and Sacrament and you will see Jesus' glory throughout your life. And not only will your faith will be strengthened until God calls you home to heaven but as you live your life of faith others will see the confession that has been clearly written in your heart. That Jesus Christ, my Savior, is my Lord and my God! Amen.