

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Text: John 2:1-11 (NIV)

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁴"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹and 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 ¹⁰and 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." ¹¹This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

Theme: *Why Do We Involve Jesus?*

We find ourselves praying for many things in life. We need a strike in the 10th frame to win the game, and we pray, "God help me!" We pray for loved ones to get better. We pray for work or a way to make ends meet. There are so many times when we are in trouble and we cry out to the Lord for help.

That's what Mary did at this wedding. She went to Jesus and cried, "*They have no more wine!*" Jesus' response was, "**Why do you involve Me?**" Think about it. Why do you involve Him when you need a strike, a hit, a touchdown or a basket. In last Sunday's Packer game, there were probably prayers from both sidelines. Why would we involve Him in a game? Why do we involve Him when someone is sick? Why do we involve Him when we need a job or when we are in any trouble? Should we just come to Him with the big things like the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life? Why do we involve Jesus with all of these mundane things in life?

I. Very often when we pray, we don't have anything in mind except the mundane thing.

I have often wondered whether Mary was expecting a miracle from Jesus. He had never done a miracle before, so it would have been strange for her to expect one. On the other hand, Jesus' answer is, "*My hour has not yet come.*" That refers to His hour of glorification on the cross. That makes it sound like He was thinking of a miracle. As I have thought about it, I don't think that Mary was expecting a miracle. All that she wanted was that Jesus would think of a way to get some wine. It appears as if Mary was in charge of the food, and this would have been a big embarrassment both to her and the groom if the wine ran out. As far as Mary was concerned, Jesus could have run to the store, borrowed wine from the neighbors or done anything to get more wine. Her eyes were fixed only on the problem at hand and how Jesus could fix that.

It is very tempting for us to use Jesus in the same way. Our eyes are on nothing except the situation at hand. It is bad. We want it fixed, and we want Jesus to fix it for us. There are many people who

haven't been in a church for years, and they will pray to get what they want or need when they are afraid. Some people will even bargain with God. Our eyes are often only on the problem at hand, and we want Jesus to fix it.

II. In such times we forget who Jesus is.

Mary had forgotten that her Son is the Son of God, the promise Savior. In John 1 it says, "*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. **We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.***" Jesus is God in the flesh. He is "God with Us." Mary had the Son of God in her womb, and gave birth to the Savior. In Him all the fulness of the deity dwells in bodily form. Paul writes in Romans 9:5 that Christ is God over all, forever praised!" In the Old Testament God's glory dwelt in the tabernacle and then in the temple. In the incarnation of Jesus Christ, God's glory dwells in His flesh. Mary came to Him as her Son. He wanted to be much more for her. He wanted to act as the Son of God, as her Savior.

Jesus is our Savior too. He is much more than a fix it man, whom we call when something breaks. He is God's Son, who came for a very specific purpose. That purpose was to give His life to redeem us from all of our sins. He came to rescue us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. His desire is that we begin by asking for these big things because the price that He paid for our salvation was great. He gave His innocent life on the cross for the forgiveness of all of our sins.

Jesus told Mary, that His hour had not yet come. John's Gospel often refers to this hour of Jesus. It was when He was lifted up on the cross to pay for all of our sins and declared, "It is finished." His greatest work was to pay for our sins on the cross. His greatest gifts are the forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation that we have in Him. In Holy Baptism He washes away our sins, and clothes us with His righteousness. In the Lord's Supper, He gives us His body and blood as the assurance of our forgiveness and eternal life in Him. These are the greatest gifts that He gives to us. Jesus didn't come to be our fix-it man. He came to be our Savior.

III. Then why do we involve Him in the mundane needs of life?

The answer is that He reveals His glory in these situations too. Jesus answered His mother's request in a way that she never expected. He turned water into wine. In John 6 He revealed His glory when He was able to feed over 5,000 people with only 5 small loaves of bread and 2 fish. There is also an interesting story in John 9. As Jesus and the disciples walked along the road, they saw a man who was born blind. The disciples asked Him, "*Who sinned this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*" Jesus answered, "*Neither...but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in His life.*" Then Jesus healed the man and revealed Himself as this man's Savior.

Everything that happens to us is so that the work of God might be displayed in our lives. It is done to strengthen our faith and the faith of others. The times of need, that we experience, teach us that we can always rely on God. The joys, that God gives us, remind us of how good and gracious He is. Times of tragedy teach us the peace that passes all understanding. In every situation in the lives of His people, Christ reveals His glory.

When the disciples saw what Jesus did in our text, it says that they put their faith in Him. When we

experience how Christ works all things for the good of His people, it strengthens our faith too. There is a bit of a two way street here. If God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to redeem us from our sins, we can be sure that He will give us everything that we need. On the other hand, when we get those little glimpses of His glory, they assure us that our sins are forgiven and that God is our dear heavenly Father.

Why do we Involve Jesus, even in the most mundane things of life? It is because He works through every part of the lives of His people for His glory. We might wonder how our physical ailments, needs, work, and even a sports game might be to His glory, but we pray, “Lord, let your name be glorified in this situation.” And He answers that prayer in a way that is always much to our surprise and for our good.

May God give us those eyes, that are not just on the mundane things, but the eyes of faith to see how He works in all things for His glory and the good of His people, eyes that see Jesus as the Son of God and His great love for us in every situation.

Amen.

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