

There is marriage before us today in Scripture. Marriage, significant division between the true church and the world. I say 'true' church because there's no shortage of churches, its people whom the world loves; which Jesus insists the world should hate you for bearing his Name, truth. Mary would say, **do whatever He says**, and the world has a better idea.

The World's hatred of the church has moved from the enlightenment thoughts of being: irrational, with creation, earth only a few 1000 years old; integrity of Scriptures as holy; the miracles. Now in our days has moved, the world thinks the church is immoral. That we are wrong, unloving to not accept whatever the world defines marriage, gender, love, truth. It's good to recognize this, the world will continue to hate us as it hated Jesus for being intolerant of man's ideas for what is truth, holy and good and not sinful. Take heart. The Lord is with you, blesses you for confessing His truth. There is no other truth that is loving, good for all creation, that will last into eternity. God help us all.

A beautiful portion of the marriage service liturgy: **In marriage we see a picture of the communion between Christ and His bride the church. Our Lord blessed and honored marriage with His presences and first miracle at Cana.**

Weddings at the time of Jesus quite different; usually held in the groom's house, whole town invited, receptions may last a week. The men were responsible for hosting the wedding and reception. So of course nothing could ever go wrong. Unless, the wine runs out like that time at Cana.

In the OT, wine shows up many times, an integral part of the ceremony and the celebration. Wine to gladdened the heart, signified joy, future hope, and when the Messiah comes, in His feast, the wine never runs out. The wedding portrait God uses in Scripture describe the passion He has for His people, the love Christ has for His bride, the Church, as preached by Isaiah, **As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.** It's no accident our Lord speaks of Himself the bridegroom, His 2nd coming the wedding feast. His first miracle at a wedding.

St. John wrote **on the third day. On the third day.** See the connection between our Lord's first sign and the resurrection. A preview of the joy of the resurrection, the feast which Isaiah and prophets spoke. This is our Lord's first sign. Not merely an indication of chronology. This is His primary sign, revealing His character, ministry.

Pay attention. **He** (epiphanied in Greek) **manifested His glory.** How? Not by His almighty power. This sign not some demonstration His control over nature, to turn water into wine. Consider, Cana, a very small town, there couldn't have been many people and the amount of wine, Jesus makes about 700 bottles worth.

His glory is in His giving. He gives wine to drunks. He gives good, the best gifts, to those who in no way deserve them or fully appreciate them, and who will almost certainly abuse them. Yea, that's us. We're good at abusing the gifts He abundantly provides, how we abuse the love of a spouse, mistreat others so often, misused the time, good gifts of creation He pours out, His gives and gives and gives, oh how we abuse and abuse and take for-granted the forgiveness He gives. Repent.

At this wedding, He points you to His hour. His hour, He gives all that He has, His Hour, the crucifixion. His hour has come, that your hearts would be glad in Him. He fills you to the brim, forgiven and loved again and again.

For there are times for each of you, when the wine runs out. Your problems, juggling responsibilities, stress, life unravels, your neat little world comes unglued. Like the time when wine ran out in Cana. How often we complain against God, that we're not richer, thinner, healthier, or have more time and things? How often do we lead ourselves into gloom, dissatisfied with what we have? How have we lament against the God of joy, "There is no wine." What do you do? Mary knew what to do.

She went to her Son. What He was going to do she had no idea. But she was convinced He would act. Do we hold that confidence? What do you do when the wine runs out? Moan, complain, draw others into your misery. Lash out. Worry. Or do you turn to Him who can do something about it?

With a voice of faith Mary lays her requests before Him. She gives the servants the best advice the world has ever heard: **Do whatever He says**. The last recorded words of Mary. **Do whatever He says**. This is what faith looks like. For she knows that whatever He does -will be good. That's who Jesus is. Always responding to the pleas of His people. Shame on us for our lack of confidence God will act, will provide, will respond to our requests.

To lay your requests before Him, knowing He will answer you for your good. For nothing of your concern is outside of His concern, no request is trivial; He hears, answers for your good, in ways beyond your thoughts.

Here's an interesting question to ask your family not here or friends? What does the world, our neighbors think goes on here? I suspect like ritual washing like in Old Testament purification jars, figure out how to be pure, what to do to be clean while the world is unclean, talk about how to purify ourself, telling us how good we are, how bad others are, judging other. So why not shut down during covid? I think that's primarily what others think.

What happens here is mercy for sinners. This is a place for sinners, if you can't say **I a poor miserable sinner** then you should leave. We are no better than anyone. And the Lord comes to show His glory here, to give to sinners the fruits of His cross, for sinners to feast with our Lord. Comes to give joy, to rejoice over you, His bride.

On the night He was betrayed, as He even spoke of the world's hatred for you, to prepare them/you for what was to come, He gave them wine, He still gives that same wine, His very Lifeblood, it never runs out, never ends, He keeps on giving it. For He who is eternal knows we are perishing; our bodies are in decline; we hurt, we miss loved ones; we ourselves are weak and besieged by temptation.

Jesus the bridegroom, comes in Divine Service to celebrate your everlasting marriage; that you hold onto, **do whatever He says** according to His Word, gives Sacramental gift in wine. Here you will find perfect joy, peace beyond measure. You will know He is your only Joy, your only Hope, your only Need. There, in Him, at His Cross, in His glory you will be content. And your heart will be glad. **And so shall your God rejoice over you.**