

Do Whatever He Tells You

Is. 62: 1-5; Ps. 96; 1 Cor. 12: 4-11; Jn. 2: 1-12

This Sunday, we have the opportunity to reflect on the first manifestation of the glory of Christ, after His baptism, at the wedding feast in Cana. Most of us know this Gospel passage so well and yet, when we read it again, we are left with questions.

Why was it that John was the only one of the four evangelists to leave a record of this event? Perhaps the question should be: Why did Matthew, Mark and Luke not document the first of the signs that revealed Jesus' glory? Maybe they thought that turning water into wine at a wedding feast was not on par with healing the sick, curing the lame, and raising the dead. This sign may not have appeared to be as important as the miracles that Jesus was to perform later, but John realized that this event was rich in symbolism and presented many opportunities to deliver profound messages.

At the beginning of this Gospel passage and in the preceding chapter, John provides a detailed count of the number of days since Jesus' baptism. It is clear that the baptism and the wedding in Cana occurred in a seven-day time span. This directs our thoughts back to Creation that took place within seven days and, as stated in the prologue to John's Gospel, Jesus was there 'in the beginning'. Also, the message is that Jesus came so that the world could be transformed and re-created through Him.

Why did Jesus carry out His first miracle at a wedding? Clearly, John uses the wedding in Cana to symbolize the fulfillment of the marriage of God and His bride, Israel, that was prophesied by Isaiah in the First Reading. Israel had been conquered and was scornfully called Forsaken and Desolate. But Isaiah prophesied that God, like a bridegroom to His bride, would call Israel My Delight and Married. And, of course, all of this prefigures the marriage of Christ and His Church; our Church.

Why did Mary issue the vague instruction: '*Do whatever He tells you.*'? The wine at the wedding had run out. The family would be shamed. The servants didn't know what to do. When Mary alerted Jesus to the situation, He reacted by saying: '*Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?*' After this rebuke, she showed her humility and total trust in Jesus by telling the servants: '*Do whatever He tells you.*'

The servants did as they were instructed without doubt or protest and Jesus transformed water into wine; the best wine and copious quantities of it. Jesus showed that He had heard Mary's petition and acted on it, providing in abundance. Mary revealed herself as an intercessor for the needs of others and she remains as a heavenly intercessor for all our needs. We often ask Mary to bring our needs to Jesus just as she did in Cana many centuries ago. We have faith in Jesus to provide abundantly for us with Mary as our intercessor.

'*Do whatever He tells you.*' When we reflect on these five words, the last words attributed to her in the Bible, we realize that Mary delivered an instruction not only to the servants but also to us. She is telling us to listen attentively to the commands of Jesus and be prepared to carry them out without question or protest just as the servants at Cana did. The question for each of us is: Am I prepared to trust in Jesus and to obey?