

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord  
 Year of the Lord 2022  
 John 2

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;  
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”  
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!  
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee!”**

**John 2:1–11** On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. *Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”*

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

In the Name of Jesus.

We hear from Jesus today about His hour; and then we hear ‘more’ about Him, from His mother. There can never be—

praise the Lord!—never a greater preacher of the Gospel than the Mother of God. HE has an hour about which even SHE does not know. What Mary DOES know about Her firstborn Son, is that He always has MORE: more to give and more to do; more than we can know or can ask or can KNOW that we NEED!

So ask of Him! Know Him! Orient HIM toward the needs you know—and remain open to the needs you do not even know. That’s what He is about; and His hour.

‘They have no wine.’ Imagine years later, the embarrassment of that poor couple as they reviewed the photo album of their wedding feast. Memories that were MEANT to be heavenly joy, turned to earthbound routine disappointment!

‘Oh, dear. Look at all those unpleasant faces! At our wedding! HOW could the whole group of us fail to provide enough wine!’ Imagine the Facebook posts that day...that WEEK! Wedding feasts went on for some days back then. Oh! And the twits and tweets and snaps and chats...(Pastor is SO UP on what the kids are doing now!)

My dear ones: I am not being entirely silly here. Such disasters ARE part of being flesh and blood: the lack, the disappointment, the frustration, the REAL-NESS of being at the height of God-given joys—the joining of a man and a woman in the Lord’s first and best of all gifts, marriage—and yet the specter of our end shows up! Aspirations cut short; joys seemingly cut off; an ENDING to this thing called LIFE, that all men KNOW, deep down, should not, should not, should not be snuffed out.

THAT is what Jesus’ Epiphany is about, my dear ones! More! More Life, despite life’s fragility; more joy, despite

OUR judgements, daily and much, that JOY is in the past and never coming near us again. Lemme be bold:

Your Creator, dear Creatures of the Lord—your ever-loving Maker wants joy for you: joy of one man and one woman, what HE calls union and one and marriage; joy of the blessing given our first parents in the Garden, children and then grandchildren and then...; joy of family and friends together and blessed by God; AND the memories of it all AND the yakking about it to others about what a joyful time and a joyful event AND the expectation that such JOY CAN-NOT be the END of anything but only the BEGINNING of Joy Unbounded, Joy Eternal!

But the vows the man makes to the woman and the woman to the man is faithfulness ‘Until death parts us.’ Awww! At a wedding?! Oh, yes. But the joys of this life are surrounded by something that is not joy. Yet the Lord comes and gives MORE!

Yet, when the Lord comes to take us to the Home He has prepared for us, with our Father, for good, even the marriages and family and joy of this world will unfold into....I don’t know WHAT! But I do know that, somehow, it will be MORE!

More ‘what?!’ Well, it will certainly be MORE than what goes on in this Good Life that we insist on strangling the Good out of! Every parent’s conundrum: give the children gifts, the grandchildren, any brother or sister; but then, next time, are they glad to see YOU? Or are they stuck on the GIFT part? ‘Grampa! Looking around grampa, behind him: What did you BRING me?!’

What has our God given us? So much; which turns into so many opportunities for us to want more and more of the ‘so much’ He gives, whether or not HE is part of our joy at all.

And what is our Loving Father’s response? Mary’s firstborn Son; His hour; and, as His mommy trusted, incapable of holding back MORE.

He came as flesh and blood, doomed to the same frustrations as we... ‘Woman, what has this to do with ME?!’ Flesh and Blood that He could offer to be lifted up on the cross and to pour from a gash in His side. Flesh and Blood that He calls on men to eat and to drink.

He has bread we can eat and never hunger; water to drink that we will never thirst again. In John’s Gospel, the people looked around then for an amazing water fountain, or a bread pan has no bottom. ‘Good to see you, God-in-the-Flesh! Good that you are here, Jesus. What ELSE did you bring us?!’

He brought us; He gives us what we can only now adore, as we eat and drink bread and wine that He calls His Body and His Blood. So that we can keep asking Him for what He loves to give: Creation; and to give us what we may have no thought of today that we truly need: His hour, Himself, His Father.

And yet, we heard today the story of the six stone jars filled with water; mention of the Jews and their purifying rites; and how the NEXT ladle of wine drawn from the jars—from the WELL?!—was MORE than anyone could expect.

So my granddaughter, Emma Grace, is starting to toddle. We’ve been encouraging it! And now, we’re regretting it!

But we would not have it any other way. Put on your running shoes!

And the disciples began to toddle to Jesus that day. They 'believed' in Him. Nice, wonderful, joy. But they would learn what it means to trust Him. And it ends up being trusting that HE is more than we CAN EVEN BELIEVE!

So, my dear ones, pray to God with all boldness and confidence, as dear children asking things of their dear Father. And as we ask, let us learn to repent a little, and ask Him...FOR HIM! While we make sure to ask Him to lighten the frustrations we have because He spoils us so. Baby steps; crawl then toddle then walk, then fly!

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

And His 'hour' had not yet come! His disciples believed in Him, as we do. And for them, for us, there is to come so much more in the Name of Jesus.