

2C 2019 SML  
JN 2:1-12

Throughout the gospels, sorrows of the Cross were followed by glories of the Resurrection, suffering was followed by relief, and those who ran out of wine were filled to overflowing. This counterpoint of sorrow and joy in the life of Our Blessed Lord was first found in his first miracle at Cana in Galilee, at a wedding.

In the Old Testament, the relationship between God and His people Israel was likened to the relationship between a bridegroom and his bride. In the New Testament, Our Blessed Lord used the same relationship to describe Himself and the new Israel which He was going to found. Christ would be the bridegroom and the Church would be His bride, and St. Paul confirmed this relationship when he wrote to the Ephesians:

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loves the Church and gave Himself up for her. (EPH 5:25)

Since Our Blessed Lord came to establish the union of husband and wife between Himself and the Church, it was fitting that He should perform His first miracle at a wedding.

By the second chapter of John's Gospel, where the Wedding Feast at Cana is recorded, Our Blessed Lord had

already been confirmed as the Lamb of God in the River Jordan. And He had also chosen five of his twelve apostles from among the followers of John the Baptist. They were: John the Evangelist, Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael, all of whom Our Blessed Lord brought to the wedding feast. I always chuckle to myself when I read the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana, in that John tells us the apostles were invited, and in the very next verse he tells us they ran out of wine. I thought to myself, "The Apostles must drink at weddings the way my uncles drink at weddings."

It is also noted that this is the only occasion in the life of Our Blessed Lord where Mary is mentioned before her Son. Why? Because Mary would be the intercessor of His first miracle, just as Mary's name would be invoked as the intercessor for a long procession of miracles that would follow for ages to come.

As mentioned earlier, John the Evangelist, was one of the apostles at the wedding. As an ear and eye witness to Mary at Cana, and as an ear and eye witness to Mary at the foot of the Cross, John is the only gospel writer who faithfully recorded these two events.

It was Mary, always with an eye out for the needs of others, who in perfect prayer, and completely confident in her Son, said, “They have no wine.”

And Mary:

the mother of all of us,

the universal mother,

the mother of every person,

in every age,

and in every place

gives the most perfect advice. . . “Do whatever he tells you.”

Only seven times had she spoken in the Scriptures:

- ✓ Twice at the Annunciation
- ✓ Twice at the Visitation
- ✓ One at the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
- ✓ And twice here at the Wedding Feast of Cana.

After those words of advice, “Do whatever he tells you,” she never speaks again in the Scriptures. What a magnificent valedictory!

What followed was Our Blessed Lord producing the best wine, the best wine which was kept ‘til last.

Eventually, some day, every single person in this Church will run out of wine. Whether it be your marriage, my

priesthood, your health, your parents, your brothers and sisters, your children, your job, your whatever . . . some day, the wine will run out. And sometimes you're running out of wine and you don't even realize it. I'll use myself as an example. Before my depression hit full force, I remember time when I would be crying for no reason. I had never been depressed before, so I didn't know a depression was coming on. So, yes, sometimes you're running out of wine and you don't really know it. But eventually, when the wine runs out, you know it. You know it because there is no money in the bank, or there is no where to turn, or there are no other options, or there is no hope . . . and you know there is no wine.

As a priest, as a man of faith, I have come to believe, after more than once, going through periods when I ran out of wine, and after sitting in my office with so many others who have run out of wine, that there is always, always, always, one option left, and that option follows the example of Our Blessed Mother in today's Gospel, who went to her Son to say, "They have no wine." In our case, "Lord, I have no wine."

As people of faith, following the example of Our Blessed Mother who went to her Son, the one option left, to find the wine that is needed, is to follow Mary's advice and "Do

whatever her Son tells you.” Rarely is that option a quick fix, but at times, it is. But always, after going to Our Blessed Lord and admitting we have no wine, and always, following the advice of Our Blessed Mother and doing whatever it is He tells you, we receive the grace.

How many examples are there in the scriptures:

- ✓ The Wedding Feast at Cana where they ran out of wine,
- ✓ The Samaritan Woman at the well whose empty lifestyle was proof in and of itself that she had ran out of wine a long time ago
- ✓ The Prodigal Son who squandered and eventually ran out of money
- ✓ Zacchaeus whose conscience eventually got the best of him
- ✓ The Foolish Virgins who ran out of oil
- ✓ The Fig Tree which ran out of fruit
- ✓ John the Baptist who ran out of hope
- ✓ The Centurion who ran out of options
- ✓ The Hemorrhaging Woman who ran out of doctors and money and options
- ✓ James and John who ran out of patience

All of them ran out of wine, came to Our Blessed Lord, followed Mary's advice, did what Jesus told them, and were given the grace. Why would it be any different of us?