

Epiphany 2 (2 Ordinary Sunday) Year C

Readings Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11,
Ps.36:5-10

Theme: *The Wedding Feast*

"His mother said to the servants, Do, whatever he tells you"—

"Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with wine'."

My dear friends the above quotation taken from the Gospel this morning is an indicator of the direction of our reflection this morning. The event which the gospel narrates happened at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus. It was proper that his first miracle was to be done at the behest of his mother

In attempting to describe the relationship between God and his people, the Bible uses the image of a bridegroom and his bride. And in describing the joy God finds among his people, it uses the image of a wedding feast.

What then do we make the readings this morning? What message has it for us?

The first reading contains a message of hope for God's people at one of the lowest moments in their history. Jerusalem had been destroyed and many of the inhabitants had been taken to exile in Babylon Israel once, God's bride was like a widow bereft of children. However her husband God had not forgotten her. There will be a new wedding feast, and God and his people will be newly wed again.

In other word, the difficulties suffered by the people of God now will be a thing of the past. This promise was fulfilled in the return from exile, but more so in the coming of Jesus. It is no surprise that Jesus started his public ministry at a wedding feast. The ministry we all have to share as members of his body.

In the second reading, Paul writing to the Christians - the body of Christ - at Corinth reminded them of the influence of the Holy Spirit in the Church. And what it really meant. Some of the converts had been priding themselves on their gifts of the spirit. Paul congratulates them but reminds them that the various gifts they have received have come from one source- the Spirit of God. They must be for a common purpose and

should not divide the community. Paul praises the gifts and lays emphasis on the importance gift of preaching. For Paul, it is preaching the cross of Christ.

The Gospel is the story of the first miracle of Jesus - the wedding feast at Cana. It is an unusual gospel miracle. It is performed in the family circle of Jesus apparently in order to save his friends from embarrassment.

What Jesus did at Cana was not a once-off thing. It pointed to what would happen all through his ministry. The changing of water into wine is a symbol of for what he was about. Everywhere he went, the old was made new. For the widow of Nain, he changed tears into joy. For Zacchaeus, he changed selfishness into joy. For the thief on Calvary, he changed despair into hope. And on Easter morning, he changed death into life. His presence could change beyond recognition the lives of those to whom he came into contact. And he continues to do this for those who believe in him and follow him.

As Christians, we must not merely dwell on the wonder involved in changing water into wine. The Gospel is a marvellous picture of the loving relationship we have with Jesus who present in various activities of our lives. He is aware that our best efforts require the touch of God and is always willing to help especially when we experience difficulty. He brings healing where there is hurt, forgiveness where there is misunderstanding and encouragement where there is lack of support. The wine is the life of God brought to people through Jesus. He can transform us, taking the ordinary in us making it extraordinary, turning anguish into wonder and want into wealth.

Life is always changed for the better when we allow Jesus into our hearts and in our home for he enriches the very ordinary makes it precious and gives an eternal flavour to the commonplace.

The Gospel is an indication that that the richness displayed at the wedding feast at Cana is available to all who call on Jesus for an increase of grace in their lives.

Mary today tells us how to do this. What better advice could we give someone in trouble or anxious about their problem than that of Mary to the wine stewards?

"Do whatever Jesus tells you."

My dear friends we as Christians - the body of Christ are a privileged group. As long as we are faithful to our calling Christ will always be there for a rescue mission just as he did in Cana. The various gifts he has given to us we should use to promote his kingdom on earth. God gave you without counting the cost. You should give to him without looking back. Let us reflect on these.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**