

Second Sunday Ordinary Time
Cycle C

January 16, 2021

Jesus always respected his parents, but I smile when I read a few weeks ago when Jesus was lost in the temple and after 3 days when Mary and Joseph found him and he said, “Did you not know that I had to be in my Father’s house?” Turning to today’s reading when they are at a wedding and Mary tells him that the couple ran out of wine. He says, “Women what is it to me, my time has not yet come?” I was reflecting on Jesus’ responses and a story about my own childhood came to me.

Growing up in a big family, I was not always the saint that I am today. My father would work late and sometimes when he came home my mother would tell her about the day and inevitably what I did to my sisters who were angels. Dad was a loving father with 7 children but he believed, “Spare the rod spoil the child” especially when it came to brothers and sisters. Often, I would get a whack on my lower parts for fighting with my sisters. When I tried to defend myself after mom told my father on me, Dad would question me if I admitted my wrong, I got a whack. On the other hand, if I disputed what happened, he would question me. He would ask me if I was calling my mother a liar, and then I would still get a whack. I figured out that I was in a lose-lose situation. I thought I was clever and the next time when I disputed what happened and he asked me if I was calling my mother a liar. I replied confidently no, and I added she was just wrong. Guess what, I was rewarded with a whack on my lower posterior.

If we turn to our Gospel reading, we are reminded that “Actions speaks louder than words.” In today’s Gospel, Jesus’ actions at the wedding in Cana spoke loudly to his disciples that he is the Messiah, the Son of God. At Mary’s request, Jesus worked his first miracle. By his presence, Christian marriage was raised to the dignity of a sacrament. I find it comforting to think of the Son of God doing the ordinary things that we all do such as going to a celebration, eating, and drinking with friends and family. Jesus is truly human and truly divine. Today is the Second Week of Ordinary Time. It’s interesting to note that the Gospel reading of the wedding feast at Cana serves as a kind of bridge between Advent/Christmas season and Ordinary or numbered time. I noticed last night that some of my neighbors still have their Christmas lights up. It may be because that they haven’t had the time

to take them down or maybe they just don't want to let go. The wedding at Cana was another revelation of Christ to the world. The miracle of Cana then is about Jesus being revealed as the Messiah. Remember at Christmas the baby Jesus was revealed to the Magi under a shining star. Then last Sunday at his baptism, he was revealed to John when a voice from heaven named him the "Beloved." Today the transformation of water into wine reveals Jesus' sacred mission to lead his people.

The Author, John did not write his gospel until the end of his life; thus, he had an entire lifetime to reflect upon the mysteries he witnessed. John's Gospel is filled with more symbolism and deeper meaning than first appears. It is layered with levels of meaning we don't find in the other evangelists. All to fulfill his purpose "so that you (that is us) may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name. In today's reading we hear the miracle at Cana described as the "first" of Jesus' signs which revealed his glory and as a result the disciples believed in him. For John, a sign is more than a miracle. A sign reveals the abundant power and glory that Jesus brings to the world. Jesus responds to his mother's observation by asserting that his hour has not yet come. The "hour" in John's gospel is always that of Jesus' death on the cross, which manifests his glory. The story of Cana is thus linked with Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. As here the water is changed into wine, wine will eventually change into blood, the new means of purification. So, in a sense, Calvary starts at Cana.

We can look at this miracle and what it means in our lives. When the mother of Jesus comes to him in the middle of the wedding and says, "They have no more wine." We can reflect on how empty we may feel sometimes. The party is over, the happiness is over we are all out of joy. It could apply to many things, our job, our marriage, and other relationships. It may be our whole attitude toward life, "the best part is over, what is there to get excited about." Life is challenging. We seem to go merrily along and then there are bumps in the road maybe even some very deep dark valleys. It could be that your financial situation changes for the worse. Bills pile up and it seems there is no relief in sight. A visit to a doctor or hospital could change everything. Difficulties in your marriage or with your children or family can make every day so difficult. Our Faith was strong when things were going well in our lives but now, we doubt, worse we may despair and wonder if things will ever be right again. Figuratively for many, "the wine has run out." As

this gospel tells us, when the wine runs out, Jesus is there. Actions speak louder than words. He breaks into people's lives with the power to transform us. He comes with a message of hope that if we believe he can make things new again, even better. He can change the ordinary into the extraordinary. This is not wishful thinking. The pain and suffering may not end the way we want it, but he can give us the power to continue on, no matter what. I have seen the transformation in my own life and in others. I am sure you have as well.

Note even though Jesus performed the miracle, and he turned the water into wine, he used others to help make it happen. He said, "Tell the servants to come and draw water and pour it into these jugs." They were part of the miracle. The message of the gospel is that God can restore the hope that we lost, the peace in our lives but he asks us to help with the miracle. Unfortunately, there are a lot of people who are content with water, who don't want to or feel the need to change to something better. There are others who despair and stand before the world with broken hearts and say, "I have no more wine." They need to understand that Jesus can transform our lives. "Actions speak louder than words." What do your actions say about how you live your life? Do you reach out to others? Do you light the candle or curse the darkness? We are called to be more like Jesus. It is a life-long process. But we do not journey alone. We are part of a community of faith. We come humbly each Sunday to the Church of Most Holy Redeemer and worship. Through our actions with the grace from God, we are all transformed.