



2nd Sunday after Epiphany
January 20, 2019
John 2:1-12

**“The Wedding of all
Weddings”**

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! In the name of Jesus, dear friends in Christ, Does this ever happen to you? This happens to me from time to time. I’ll be in a conversation with my wife about something, but something in our conversation will lead my mind down a certain path or I’ll start thinking about something totally different or my mind will be cued and goes down a trail and I’ll ask something or say something to her that makes almost no sense to her because the whole thought process took place in my head. Does that ever happen to you? Does your mind ever wander? Do you ever catch yourself day-dreaming? Maybe you see something that triggers your mind to think about something. I recently read an article about day dreaming where they quoted a Professor who has studied day dreaming and he said, “Just about every thought that people have is related directly or indirectly to one of their goals”¹ So, when our minds wander, or when we see something and our minds go down a trail, it’s often related to a goal that we may have in life.

Today we’re looking at the account of Jesus’ first miracle. And could it be that in our text Jesus is looking at this situation and there’s something much deeper going through his head? Whenever I’ve studied this text what’s always struck me is how Jesus responds. It’s kind of curious, isn’t it? His mom comes to him and simply says, “They have no more wine.” And how does Jesus respond? “Woman.” That’s exactly what he says, “Woman.” It seems almost a bit brusque, right? That’s not the normal way for a son to speak to his mother. And literally he says, “What is it to me and to you? My time has not yet come.” Now, one way to understand this is that Jesus is talking about doing his first miracle, like Jesus is saying, “I’m not ready to do a miracle yet.” It could be that Jesus is following the timetable set by His Father and it isn’t quite time for the miracle yet and he doesn’t want his earthly mother rushing things. Perhaps. But, that doesn’t make a whole lot of sense in the context. Why not? Because just after Jesus says that his time has not yet come, he does something about Mary’s request, He does the miracle! That’s not Jesus. He’s not someone who says, “I’m not going to do it” and then after a little bit says, “Oh, alright, I guess I’ll do something about it.” That’s not Jesus. Jesus has things perfectly planned out. Jesus doesn’t just fly by the seat of his pants and do things at random. He has everything perfectly planned out, perfectly calculated, everything that he does, everything that he says has purpose and meaning. “Woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come.”

What if something deeper was going on here? If you’re a single person and you to go to a wedding, what’s on your mind? What are you thinking about? You think about your own wedding, don’t you? What will it be like? What will happen? Who will it be with? What will the decorations be like? When will it happen? Will I even get married? You’re mind goes to a different time. What if at this wedding, Jesus was thinking about His wedding?

Throughout the Bible God uses this awesome picture of marriage to illustrate His relationship with His people. It’s not enough for God to picture His relationship with us as a King to subjects or as a Shepherd to sheep or as a Father to children, often God uses the imagery of a marriage. He pictures Himself as the Bridegroom and we, His people, as the bride. “For your Maker is your husband – the LORD Almighty is his name” (Is. 54:5), “As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you” (Is. 62:5), “The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete” (John 3:29), “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Eph 5:25), “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” (Rev. 21:2), “Come, I will show you the

¹ Professor Eric Klinger from <http://www.abc.net.au/health/features/stories/2014/05/06/3998712.htm>

bride, the wife of the Lamb" (Rev. 21:9). God is the bridegroom, we are the bride. But we walked away from God. God longs for communion, fellowship, intimacy with you and me, but what do we do? We eat the fruit of the tree, we break the relationship, we run after a love affair with the world, with the things of this world. God invites us to trust in him and ...we worry, we fret, we doubt him. God invites us to have a conversation with him through His Word and prayer and...we're too busy, we have this to do, that to do, work, money, job, hobby is more important than our relationship with our God. And wonder upon wonders, God STILL longs to be married to us, He STILL longs for a relationship with us, He STILL desires you as a bridegroom wants his bride.

But the relationship has been broken, the relationship needs to be repaired, our marriage with Jesus needs to be restored. But we can't restore it. Left to ourselves we should be rejected, despised, and face an eternity of separation from him. We can't change the situation. But Jesus can. He longs to have a wedding feast with us. That's why He came. But Jesus knows that there's something He has to do, something He has to go through before He can enjoy the wedding feast with us.

"My time has not yet come," Jesus said. Throughout the gospel of John whenever "Jesus' time" or "Jesus' hour" is referred to it always means His hour of suffering. Several times people tried to seize Jesus, but we're told "his hour had not yet come." (John 7:30, John 8:20) "At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come." "Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come." It wasn't until Holy Week when Jesus said: "What shall I say, 'Father, save me from this hour? No it was for this hour that I have come." (John 12:27) And again: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." (John 12:23) So what's going on here? Jesus is looking at this situation.

Here's a wedding, people are having a joyous time, but there's a problem, they're about to run out of wine. That's an embarrassing thing at this time, that will cut short the party, that will drain the joy out of this happy occasion, the celebration will end. Wine is the drink of a festal, joyous occasion. But the wine is running out. And here's Jesus observing all this. Could it be that as Jesus is observing this He's thinking, "There's no way that any of these people are going to experience real joy unless I do something about it." Perhaps Jesus is looking at this whole situation and thinking, "Oh my, the wine is running out, the joy of this celebration is going to be over, but far worse, there would be no reason to have any kind of joy, no reason to have any kind of celebration on earth at all, unless my hour comes, unless I drink not the cup of wine, but the cup of God's eternal wrath against every injustice, wickedness, and evil. There would come a time when Jesus is going to pray in a garden, "Father, if it is possible may this cup be taken from me, but not as I will but as you will." God's will, however, was that He suffer and die. Is Jesus thinking, "There could not possibly be any joy on earth unless I go to that cross and die. You see, everything that Jesus did had it's focus on the cross and it's really no different here. Jesus said, "My hour, the hour of my suffering, has not yet come." But it will.

So, Mary goes and tells the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'" Do whatever he says to you, no matter how weird or crazy it sounds. She knows. She remembers Jesus' birth. She knows who He is and what He can do. Jesus directs them to fill the jars with water and miraculously Jesus changes the substance of water into excellent wine so the celebration can continue. But the real telling verse is the last verse here: Thus Jesus revealed His glory and His disciples put their faith in Him.

Jesus revealed His glory, His light, He showed that He is the One. He is the One with the power of God Himself who has come to do for us what we could never do on our own. He has come with power to enter His hour, to suffer and die and rise, and why so? So that He might become your real bridegroom. So that He might intimately connect Himself to you forever. So that YOU might be welcomed at the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, so that YOU might have a place at THE marriage Feast of the Lamb in heaven, He sipped His cup of sorrow – even in the midst of earthly celebration – so that you and I may drink the eternal cup of celebration with Him in His paradise forever!

And knowing that doesn't just affect our eternal life, it affects our lives right now. How so? Three ways: Position, Prayer, and Power. First Position. No matter what position in life you're in right now, maybe you're married, single, divorced,

widowed, you have the ultimate souse. You're Jesus' bride. He looks at you and He's amazed. As a pastor I get to see this more than anyone else. As a pastor I've officiated at quite a few weddings and something happens without fail. Without fail, the bride on her wedding day always looks stunning, she might not have looked that way the day before, but on her wedding day, she's stunning. What Jesus says is, "I'm that groom standing in front of church and you're my bride, you amaze me, your beauty takes my breath away." Why so? Because He's washed you from all impurities with His blood, He's cleansed you from all your blemishes in the waters of your baptism and He unites Himself to you intimately in His Supper. And one day you'll sit at the feast of feasts, the celebration of all celebrations at the Marriage feast of the Lamb. So whatever your position in life, you have the ultimate position – the spouse of Jesus.

Second- prayer. Mary comes to Jesus with a rather simply thing. They're about to run out of wine and the celebration is going to be cut short. She simply tells Jesus of the problem. And Jesus does something about it. It's not too small of a matter to Him. Nothing is too small of a matter to bring before your Savior in prayer.

Lastly, power. Jesus has the power to do anything. Yet, He used His power to save you and me. He drank the cup of sorrow to the last drop and why? So that we might enjoy the cup of joy forever in His presence. This ha

This happens and has happened with my own children. It's their birthday and they get a present that they really wanted. But it's bedtime so they have to stop playing with it. They're disappointed, they throw a fit, throw themselves on the floor. And what do the parents do? I suppose some may threaten to take the toy back to the store, but sometimes what you do is you sit that child down and say, "Look, this is your toy, you get to play with it all day tomorrow, don't let this present disappointment overshadow the great thing that you have." We get disappointments, struggles, hardships, difficulties in life, but don't let any of them overshadow the awesome thing that you have in your Savior forever. Amen.