

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel according to John (*John 2:1-5, 8-9*)

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' Mother was there, and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' Mother said to Him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do You involve Me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His Mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Set the stage for God to intervene in your life

Through our self will we determine the course of our lives into eternity, to heaven or hell. God does not interfere with our freewill, His gift to us. Even though a person may not believe in Jesus Christ, God's laws are written on his heart and conscience (Cf. Romans 2:15). A pure heart of good will and an undarkened conscience will lead to the Truth and salvation. Like any good parent, God's greatest desire is the eternal good of all His children. *God wills all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).* The truth is salvation is only through Jesus Christ, God's only Son (Cf. Acts 4:12).

Seeing many of His children walking towards eternal abyss, God like a good parent, very much wants to intervene and bring His love and power to bear on our lives. God's power is unlimited but it is controlled by His love and justice. The most difficult work of God remains the conversion of the hearts of His children. God is tied hands and feet when we do not wish to do His will or put Him first in our lives. God works through the presence of the Holy Spirit in each soul. Oftentimes the gentle inspirations of the Holy Spirit go unnoticed, deafened as it usually is by the other loud competing voices around it. But once the situation is set up for God's intervention, God does His part faithfully and powerfully.

Our water is turned into wine, and our problems become a blessing when God intervenes. When Mother Mary asked Jesus to help the wedding couple at Cana, Jesus' response was that it was not the time for Him to do a miracle. It sounded very discouraging but Mother Mary being full of wisdom understood what Jesus was really saying. What is needed is to surrender the situation in faith and trust to Him. Mary did just that: She told the servants to do exactly as Jesus says. Today, Mother Mary's advice becomes even more profound as we face deeper and more challenging situations and problems than that of the wedding couple at Cana. Many of today's problems cry out for God's merciful and powerful intervention.

The trusting widow's jar of flour and jug of oil never ran dry till the famine was over (Cf. 1 Kings 17:7-16). It was famine time and the poor widow had only the remains of flour and oil to make a last meal before she and her son die. However, at the request of prophet Elijah, the poor widow used the remains to make a meal for Elijah, choosing to believe that her jug and jar will not run dry as Elijah had told her. *She went away and did as Elijah had told her (1 Kings 17:15).*

God wants the best for us. He has His own plan for each of us (Cf. Jeremiah 29:11). God is always waiting to take charge of our lives. He tells us not to place too much trust in ourselves. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).* What God really wants from us is obedience and total trust in His sacrificial love, Providence, unlimited power and infinite wisdom.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, life is beset with troubles. I am aware some of these difficulties are brought on by my over-reliance on myself. Yet I know every difficult situation that presents itself is in the final analysis a test of my obedience and trust in You. As a loving parent, You provide the graces for me to face my problems squarely, and in full confidence of Your love and power to surrender them to You. In doing so, You give me the graces to completely let go of it by ceasing to worry, believing and trusting that my situation is in capable hands. And so, I set the stage for You to intervene in whatever way You in Your infinite love and wisdom so wish. By this, increase my faith by a quantum leap. May my water become wine and all my problems become blessings in disguise. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.