

When Things Run Out, Does God Care?

John 2:1-11

What a disaster! The whole town has been invited to your daughter's wedding, a few outsiders as well, when, halfway through the celebrations the wine runs out. Fortunately, two of your guests, Mary and her son Jesus, are present.

Somehow they know what has happened even before you do. Most importantly, they are concerned for you and the success of the wedding celebration. Without you asking her to do so, Mary approaches Jesus and says what he surely would have already known. 'They have no more wine.'

What a disaster! They have no more wine!



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Mother and Son obviously communicate on a level not so apparent. There is some kind of secret knowledge between them. Without actually asking or directing Jesus to help, Mary places the ball in his court. She knows he is able to help, but even as his mother she claims no authority over him.

Jesus, without any disrespect, states that even her subtle approach wasn't appropriate. 'Woman, why do you involve me? My hour has not yet come.'

Jesus replied...

Woman why turn to me?
My time has not yet come.

John 2:4



The time for Jesus revealing himself as the son of God

is not now, not for such a simple purpose. But with confidence in Jesus' heart for the host and your reputation, Mary instructs the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'



What an intriguing conversation! Though she had no right to ask him to act in this very worldly matter, Jesus chose to honour both his mother and Father.

What follows is an example of our Saviour's generosity, his supplying

us with the very best gifts in great abundance despite our not deserving them. And he did so at the wedding completely avoiding any fuss or self-glory. His miracle turning water into wine left the guests confused as to why the finest of wines would be

The steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'
John 2: 9 -10



served towards the end of the celebration.

That's great for them, but does God care about us when we run out of things? Whether it is wine at a wedding, or some other need we have, Jesus is more than willing and able to supply help. And often in the most surprising ways.

Much has been made of mother Mary's intercession during the wedding at Cana. Yes, she did approach her son, but it's made clear in the text that Jesus responded out of his own concern, not out of obligation to his mother.

Jesus came as a servant, with a servant heart. He came to serve the whole world with its much greater need to be free of sin and condemnation; but that does not negate his concern for the little disasters in any of our lives. What others may consider an issue not big enough to bother the master with, Jesus would have us approach him about with confidence.

Jesus came as a servant, and we are the ones served. - per John 13:1-20



Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

And again...

Cast all your concerns upon him for he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

Does God care when things run out? Most certainly. He cares for the life of sinners. He cares for the church, and for the people of every nation. Jesus is concerned for you and your struggles. He knows the pain of human living. He experienced a world of injustice and inequity of resources and power. He came to give us hope in a restoration that not only brings justice and equity, but great joy, and peace with God never known before. It is that relationship with God as loving Father that Jesus often taught about.

We are told that the miracle of the wine, which healed no one, which was done quietly without drawing attention to himself, was still a display of Jesus' glory, and his disciples believed in him. That is why it's an Epiphany lectionary text.

Though at times his disciples would express confusion and doubt about Jesus, they were always in the presence of the bridegroom. The era being in a new relationship with God had dawned. His disciples were not expected to fast, instead they were to celebrate. He didn't call them servants, but friends.

Jesus washes more than feet.

- He makes all things new including me through baptism.
- He pours out the Holy Spirit on the Church.
- I shall not be in want
- He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul
- He supplies me with all my needs I shall not fear
- He sets a feasting table before me before my enemies
- My cup overflows
- I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

As with the quality of the wine served towards the end of the wedding — the best for us is yet to come. No matter our age or past achievements and service, God has something better than we've ever tasted in store for us.

Jesus does far more than wash feet. By the shedding of his own blood, Jesus makes us clean. By his grace, he shares his righteousness with us through baptism. He

shares His coming kingdom where there will be no lack, no want, no running out. By giving us His name, Jesus invites us to ask for good things directly. Will we get everything we ask for? Will our wine cellars never be empty? There is no guarantee, but we are to ask, and to know he cares and knows our needs, and his mercies are new every morning.

His time is come, and coming still. In our present life, Jesus lays a feasting table, a table of victory before us in the presence of our enemies, and our cup overflows. Despite any physical deprivations of this world, pantries empty of basic commodities, or even the wine of celebration in these days... our hope, our joy, and our future remain full and secure in his presence.

The bridegroom is with the church always. If our love, our compassion for the poor and needy, our zeal for worship and sharing the good news, ever run low and in need of renewal, then we know who to ask.

He pours out the Holy Spirit and the gifts of faith, hope, love, and joy on the Church. Jesus will renew peace and patience that often run low in my life. These things he delights to give. What is he prompting you to ask for today? Ask from knowing his care for you, and the peace of God that passes human understanding will keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus forever. Amen.

Video of the service including the above address: https://youtu.be/awKPI_A99BA