

Epiphany 2  
January 17, 2016

Text: John 2:1-11

Theme: Jesus is the Son of God

1. Mary was Reminded of This
2. The bride and groom experienced this
3. The disciples believed this

We like power. We are drawn to power. There is more than a kernel of truth about Tim Taylor's drive for bigger power tools in Tim Allen's 90's tv show *Home Improvement*. There's something about the power of a storm that makes us lift our eyes to the sky. There's something about the powerful Hollywood stars and political figures that gets our attention. There's something about the power of money that draws us to risk a few dollars for the 1 in 292 million chance at winning millions or billions of it.

During the season of Epiphany, our focus is on Jesus revealing himself as the Savior of the world. One of the most prominent ways that he shows it is in his miracles – those supernatural, divine works that he did over the course of his life and displayed his divine power. These works reveal that **Jesus is the Son of God**.

For all the insight that Mary had, beginning with the visit of the angel to her in Nazareth to announce that she would be the virgin mother of the Messiah, to the night of his birth with the visit of the shepherds, the warning to flee Bethlehem and go to Egypt, Jesus' own words that he needed to be about his Father's business, Mary had all sorts of times when she was reminded that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. So it is that when at this relative's wedding at Cana that they run out of wine, she approached her son to tell him, **Mary was reminded of this** when Jesus said, **My time has not yet come**.

As true God, Jesus knew the situation and saw the need. But this was a reminder that God acts always with perfect timing. What it was that he was waiting for, John doesn't reveal. But it's instructive for us too who make demands and get frustrated with God when our life doesn't go the way we planned or think that it should. When illness strikes or lingers. When death draws near. When debt piles up to no fault of our own. And we can be tempted to say, God lacks the power. If he's not going to help, then forget it. But over and over again, he tells us, **my time has not yet come**, only to give us something better when his time arrives. Maybe it's our perspective that's messed up a little bit. Maybe it's our hold simply on the earthly, the temporal that keeps us from seeing the power and goodness in God's always perfect timing. After being reminded of his divine timing, Mary simply told the disciples, **do whatever he tells you**.

That timing was surely something that the bride and groom celebrating their wedding came to appreciate. It was a staple in Israel not just for celebrations but for all their meals. And they would surely be embarrassed to have run out of wine at this week-long celebration. There was little they could do to get more on such short notice. **Jesus is the Son of God** as evidenced by his merciful response to their need.

So too for us when we become frustrated with God's timing, we can question his mercy or whether or not he even sees or cares. Maybe this is too small a thing for him to be bothered. I mean after all what's a little embarrassment in comparison to the real problems facing the Jews at that time. And don't you and I sometimes think the same way? I don't want to trouble God with such a little issue when there are real problems in the world. It's such a trivial little thing. I don't want to burden God, as if the Creator of the universe who still rules over all things can't fix your problem and my problem and our neighbor's problem at the very same instant. See in Jesus, the merciful Son of God, who is not only aware of all your troubles, from the most complex health issues that boggle the minds of even our most learned doctors to the simplest of issues that puzzle even a 1<sup>st</sup> grader, but he has the power to solve them and does so in his omniscient and always perfect time. That too is part of the divine glory of Jesus we must recognize that he does in fact keep his promise to **graciously give us all things**. (*Romans 8:32*)

The disciples saw this glory of God too. Imagine what must have been going through their minds when Jesus instructed them to draw water into those 6 stone jars and **each holding 20 or 30 gallons**. About 150 gallons in

total. And then he says, **Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.** It's water. Just plain water. We drew it out of the cistern or well just like the water that is used to wash the feet of the guests and to clean the dishes. What could he have in mind? And then the master of the banquet tastes it. It's not water at all. It's wine. But not just any old 2 buck chuck. This is the best wine they've had since the wedding began.

**He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.** Sure they did. How could they not after seeing this power display that **Jesus is the Son of God.** It was easy for them we say. They saw this miracle personally. They beheld his glory with their very own eyes. But us? It's so much more difficult. What we see are the struggles. What we see are loved ones painfully approaching death. What we see is death itself and hatred and war. But then maybe we're not looking at the right things. We're viewing the world through the prism of the world. But Jesus came to change our focus.

Here's what I know. You haven't seen water changed into wine during a short walk from across a room. What you have seen are miracles that Jesus has worked in your life. Your faith in him is a miracle. That he comes to you today in body and blood shed on the cross and gives it anew to you is a miracle. That he promises his constant presence to the very end of the age is a miracle. Again and again and again Jesus works his divine power and glory and reveals himself to us as the Son of God, your Savior and mine. When a faith-filled loved one approaches death, that's not a net negative. Jesus is bringing them safely to his side in heaven's glory exactly as he promised. And we who remain, know too that Jesus is with us in our grief and sadness.

When it looks like evil is advancing and the bad guys are going to win, you know how the story ends with a glorious future made certain by the revealed Christ who gave himself for us. The apostle John begins his gospel by sharing how **we have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father full of grace and truth.** (*John 1:14*) He closes his gospel by saying, **Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book, but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that you may have life in his name.** (*John 20:30-31*) He continues to do them today and reveals to us and others that Jesus is the Son of God.