

2 S. after Epiphany 1/19/25
John 2:1-11 C

HIS MOTHER SAID TO THE SERVANTS, “DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU.”

I am going to guess that whether it was a commercial or on America's Funniest Home Videos, you've seen the clips of the wedding bloopers. The football obsessed best man who absolutely destroys the reception. The grandma having a little too much fun and falls into the wedding cake. Or, a wardrobe malfunction.

In our Gospel today, Jesus and His mother, Mary, and His disciples are at a wedding in Cana when a major mishap occurred. *When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine” (v. 3).* We all know that at a wedding, when the wine runs out, so do the guests. So, what is the solution? *His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever He tells you” (v. 5).*

That's really the heart of the problem, isn't it? We don't always do what our Lord tells us to do. Instead of listening, we try to play God and think we know better. How often do we do what our hearts – maybe I should more accurately say, our bellies – tell us to do. How often do we do what just feels good? How often do we do what we do just because that's what everybody else in the world around us is doing, like in Sodom and Gomorrah. We are called to do what our Lord says to do. But all too often we just don't listen.

Just like our father Adam. God said to him, *“of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Ge 2:17).* Adam didn't listen. He did what he

wanted. He ate and, *sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned (Ro 5:12).*

We don't do much better at listening to God. You know what God says to you today.

He says, "Fear, love, and trust in Me above all things." But, we don't. We fear people. What they think of us.

How about this one: Don't end your neighbor's life; don't be **angry** at your neighbor. But, we let the sun go down on our anger. We keep a good, solid record of wrongs. We hate. We wish harm and ruin. We have no desire to be reconciled in Christ to our neighbor.

Then, the BIG one, the 6th: The one about loving and cherishing the spouse God has given you. But, we spend all our time ogling and coveting that woman on the website, and thinking how marvelous life would be if only she were our wife.

Oh, and the one nobody listens to God on in our day, the 8th: Say only nice things about your neighbor. Nope, don't do it. You can't wait to use your wagging tongue to cut down your neighbor with the latest tidbit of gossip, because it makes you look all the better.

And, God says we are to be content with what He has chosen to give you. But, wait until your green eyes of jealousy see what your neighbor has, and contentment is nowhere to be found in your heart.

We don't do the things God commands us to do. We daily sin much and fall short of the glory of God. And because we don't do what God commands us to do, our lives and the lives of those around us show it: broken families, broken relationships, heartache, worry, fear, regret. We have been suffering the consequences of sin ever since Adam did not listen to God in the Garden.

In our lesson, the servants did exactly what Jesus told them to do. And notice the result – it was very good. In fact, the result was great joy. The wedding feast just didn't go on, Jesus made it better! John tells us, *This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him (v. 11)*. The “glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14).

The wedding at Cana teaches us that Jesus is the Perfect Bridegroom who listens to the Father and does what the Father tells Him to do. The Son did the Father's will even when that meant humbling Himself to be born of a virgin, taking on human flesh and bone. He was baptized for you, to become your substitute in death. He lived the perfect life for you, never once disobeying His Father. When His hour did come, He offered Himself as the perfect Lamb of God on the cross for you, even being obedient unto death. Because that Lamb of God was slaughtered on the altar of the cross for the sin of the world, you are forgiven, and your sin is gone as far as the east is from the west. Which means that you have the joy of Christ, just like joy at the wedding at Cana in Galilee.

The joy you have today is a mere foretaste of the feast to come, for you, Dear Child of God, have been invited to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb in heaven, a feast of joy, where our gladness will have no end.

Today, as you live in Christ and He lives in you, by virtue of your baptism into Christ, you have been called to be a Little Christ, obedient to the Father just as Jesus was obedient even unto death to the Father. You live a new life in Christ. It's no accident that you are here in this place, at this time, to be the body of Christ we call {Zion} Concordia, to be our Lord's blessing to each to other. To build each other up. To support and encourage one another, rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with

those who weep. Being Christ to one another, as Christ has instructed us to be, that our joy may be full.

No, that does not mean that the wine will never run out; nor does it mean that we will never feel pain, embarrassment, or sorrow. But it means we will be blessed in Him. For just as Jesus came to the wedding at Cana, He still comes to His bride today. He comes to forgive us the weakness and doubt and shame of our sin and to renew and strengthen us in Him. And, He does it here at His holy font, His holy pulpit, His holy altar.

That forgiveness, life, and salvation are ours, My Friends, because Jesus listened to the Father and did what the Father asked Him to do as the Perfect Bridegroom. And that means, like the wedding guest at Cana, we receive all God's good gifts in our Bridegroom Christ, that our joy may be full and forever and ever, without end.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.