



The Wedding at Cana

Mary reminds us to do what Jesus tells us

Introduction

- 4** *Now Jesus has grown up, he has many friends and knows many people,*
5 *but many of them simply think of him as the son of Joseph, the carpenter.*
6 *Jesus has, in fact, not yet performed anything special, no signs, no miracles.*
7 *But Mary, his mother, knows that Jesus is truly the Son of God.*

8 A very beautiful story – The Bible

9 Jesus' first miracle (Cf. Jn 2:1-12)

10 We are in Cana, a town in Galilee. Today there is a wedding feast.

11 Jesus and his disciples have been invited to the wedding: Mary, his mother, is also there.

12 The servants distribute the wine to the guests. But.... at the most beautiful moment, they run out of wine!

13 Mary notices immediately. She feels sorry for the bride and groom and says to Jesus: "They have no more wine." "Mother, what do you want from me?" Jesus answers. "The time has not yet come for me to work miracles." Mary looks at her son, then goes to the servants and tells them, "Do whatever Jesus tells you."

14 There, beside them, are six stone vessels that could contain about a hundred litres each. They are for the Jewish purification rites.

15 Jesus says to the servants: "Fill them with water!"

16 The servants fill them to the brim.

17 Then Jesus says to them, "Now take some and give it to the master of the table to taste."

18 The servants look at him incredulously: they have never given water instead of wine to the guests!

19 The servants bring some to the master of the table and he tastes the water: it has become wine! But he does not know where that wine comes from. Only the servants who brought the water know.

20 After tasting it, the master calls the bridegroom and says to him: 'Everyone serves the good wine first and then, when you have already drunk a lot, they serve the poorer quality wine. You, on the other hand, have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus has turned water into wine, into very good wine!

21 Now the feast can continue, to the great joy of the bride and groom and all the guests!

22 The disciples believe in Jesus because they have seen his greatness. This is Jesus' first miracle.

23 A very beautiful story – The Bible

24 *The servants really trusted Mary, and believed Jesus' words! It wasn't exactly an easy decision to bring water instead of wine to the guests. It could have been very embarrassing!*

25 *Mary is Jesus' mother and our mother too. When we do not know what to do, we too can go to her: she is a mother, she always knows how to help us, and she leads us by the hand to trust in her son ¹.*

26 *And we too can do as Mary did: we can be attentive when someone close to us is in need, we can help them*

27 *and also ask Jesus to intervene.*

28 Let's live like this (a)

29 "Do whatever Jesus tells you" (Jn 2:5)

30 *"... When Mary realised that they had no more wine to finish the wedding feast, she told Jesus to take care of it. And Jesus performed the miracle: He turned water into wine" Chiara (C. Lubich, in Era bellissima, Supplement to Gen4, Rome, 2003, p.10)*

31 Like Mary I realise what my friend needs

We were at school and it was craft time. We were preparing something for Mother's Day and one of my classmates asked me if I could make a paper rose for his mother, since he couldn't do it.

32 Inside I thought I would like to make all the roses just for my mum,

33 but towards the end of the lesson I saw that he was very sad and disappointed because he had not managed to make a single flower to give to his mum.

34 When the hour was over, I gave him one of the three roses I had made. He thanked me and we were both much happier. (Slovenia)

35 Let's live like this

36 *"Do whatever Jesus tells you" (Jn 2:5)*

37 *"... When Mary realised that they had no more wine to finish the wedding feast, she told Jesus to take care of it. And Jesus performed the miracle: He turned water into wine" Chiara (C. Lubich, in Era bellissima, Supplement to Gen4, Rome, 2003, p.10)*

38 Our love can bring about "miracles"!

We were in the car when,

39 all of a sudden, my sister's hat flew out through the open window.

40 She was really upset and began to cry.

41 And so, I gave her my hat.

42 When we got home, someone came to the door with my sister's hat that they had found on the beach.

A very beautiful story

God accompanies us from creation to "new heavens and new earth" (Episode 9)

43 It was like a big surprise from Jesus: it made us all very happy! (Brazil)

44 Gen 4

Notes

1 - "When we are in difficult situations, when problems occur that we do not know how to solve, when we feel so much anxiety and anguish, when there is no joy in our lives, go to Mary and say: 'We have no wine. We are out of wine: look at how I am, look at my heart, look at my soul'. Tell our Mother. And she will go to Jesus and say: 'Look at this, look at this: she has no wine'. And then, she will come back to us and say: 'Whatever he tells you, do it'" (Pope Francis, Angelus, 20.1.2019)

-Some insights from the richness of the theology of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, by Sherin H. Salama (Coptic Orthodox focolarina of Egypt): ""Six vessels of water in Cana of Galilee, which you turned into wine in your wisdom. Seven times each day I kneel before you, my God, give us your peace and your kingdom." (*from the book of "Annual Praise": with Melody. "Adam Praise with Melody" for the wedding in Cana of Galilee, from the Coptic month Toubia 13.*) "What intercession is greater and what response is swifter than this! If the Virgin implored the owners of the feast for material things and the Lord answered her, would it not be more appropriate for us to ask her intercession for us to ask her beloved Son for our spiritual and physical lives? (...) Just as a child asks his mother to ask his father for him, even as the father loves his son and is pleased to grant all his requests if they are for his good." (*from articles and research on Anba Takla Himanout's website: www.st-takla.org*)"

-Some insights from the richness of the theology of the Anglican Churches, by Lesley Ellison (Anglican focolarina of England): "In the stories that the Bible tells, many Christians such as Anglicans and Lutherans for example, find a wonderful model for Christian life and relationship with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Their relationship with Mary consists not so much in asking her for many things, but in doing as she did and asking Jesus to help. The Archbishop of Canterbury Revd Justin Welby, expressed it this way in a homily on 27 May 2019: 'Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin, is the one who "makes room" for God. She makes room in her body for the incarnation. She makes room in her life at times of conception, birth, persecution and protection of the God who needs to be cared for and to learn. She makes space for him in Nazareth and in the Temple. And it creates room in the mind and heart to consider what all this means.'"

-Some reflections from the perspective of the theology of the Reformed Churches, by Peter Dettwiler (Reformed pastor and theologian from Switzerland - married focolarino): "John Calvin (Reformer of Geneva) says: "If, then, we recognise that the Virgin Mary is commended to us as an example, and confess with her that we are nothing, that we are capable of doing nothing, and that we have everything through the pure goodness of our God: then we are disciples of the Virgin Mary and show that we have understood her teaching. And what greater honour can we do her than this!" (200)."