

## The Wedding of Cana of Galilee

*In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.*

### Aim

- † A character study of our Lord Jesus Christ and His mother St Mary
- † Character traits we can learn from Our Lord Jesus Christ and from St Mary

### Key Verses

John 2:1-11

#### ***Water Turned to Wine: Jesus' First Miracle at Cana***

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come. His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, “Fill the water pots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, “Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.” In addition, they took it.

When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”

### Lesson

#### **1. Service: St. Mary serves**

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and St Mary *'was there'*. This suggests that St. Mary was already at the house where the wedding reception was, not as a guest but instead, serving and helping the family with reception preparations. During the reception, she does not simply sit at a table as a guest, but rather she is carefully watching and seeing where she can be of assistance. This is where she immediately notices, “They have no wine.”

This teaches us Christian behaviour of being there for others; willing to help and serve.

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### 2. Trust: St. Mary trusts in the Lord

When St. Mary noticed the lack of wine, she immediately went and told Jesus – she interceded on behalf of the ‘master of the feast’ (even if he didn’t ask her directly), and despite telling her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come” St. Mary went and told the servants “Whatever He says to you, do it”.

St Mary had complete trust in Jesus, that he would save the situation, and that is exactly what Jesus does. We too, should have full and complete trust in Jesus that no matter how bad our situation seems, if we trust Him completely, he will save us from any difficult situation.

St Mary shows us that she is always there for all her children, interceding on their behalf for all their needs. She is a wonderful mother, full of grace, love & compassion, who always wants the best for those who love God.

### 3. Intercession: St. Mary Intercedes on the weddings behalf

Jesus instructs the servants to ‘fill the water pots with water’ even though He told his mother that His time had not *‘yet come’*.

Despite this we very clearly see that extraordinary intercession and power that St Mary has when she intercedes on our behalf. Her intercession is so powerful that the Lord did not and will not ignore it. He grants us many blessings everyday through her intercession.

### 4. Obedience: St. Mary asks the servants to obey Jesus’ instructions

‘Whatever He says to you, do it’, we too should take St Mary’s advice and apply it to our lives; obeying ‘whatever’ Gods asks us to do.

A rare occurrence is it that St. Mary speaks throughout the four gospels. So we should learn much from those times that she does and we will be tremendously blessed, as the wedding of Cana was, and we will grow in our spiritual life.

### 5. Joy: Our Lord Jesus shares in joy events

‘Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding’: by His attendance, He blesses the wedding, and blesses the sacrament of marriage.

It demonstrates that Jesus likes to share our joyful moments, as He shares our sorrows. He wants us to have joy and peace in our everyday lives. He gives us His blessings so that we can live our life abundantly. In response, we should give Him our love, thanks, praise and glory.

### 6. Transformation: Jesus transforms water into wine

Jesus’ first miracle was the act of transforming *‘water into wine’*...the wine here is a symbol of Joy. The transformation from water – a simple ingredient, into wine – a complex, sweet ingredient can be likened to God transforming our lives from ordinary to extraordinary. God, through His love, power, compassion and mercy can bless and make our lives fruitful if we want.

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However, note that in the story before Jesus changes the water into wine, Jesus asks the servants to do their part *'Fill the water pots with water'*. This is symbolic of our Lord asking us to do our part and our best, before He does His.

### 7. The Good wine is served last

Jesus produces the *'good wine'* after the people have already consumed the *'inferior'* wine. This is symbolic of our Lord's capability to fill us with true, permanent joy, versus the world's ability to leave us unfulfilled and unsatisfied with a perishable joy.

### His glory manifest: Jesus, the Lord of glory

'Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding': tells us that Christ starts his ministry by attending a wedding. It is here that Christ performs His first miracle, which marks the beginning of His ministry. For this reason, we celebrate this as one of the minor Feasts of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is through this miracle, that He first *"manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him"*.

**Glory is to God forever. Amen.**