

"The blessing of marriage" John 2:1-11 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 2023

Grace and peace in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are still in the season of Epiphany, which began on the day of the Magi, on January 6. "Epiphany" means the manifestation or revelation of the glory of God. The light of the star revealed to the Magi the glory of the Child Jesus in Bethlehem, the first time that people outside the nation of Israel saw the glory of God in the Child Jesus.

Today we speak of an epiphany at the wedding of Cana. Our text reads as follows: This first sign Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory; And his disciples believed in him. The other evangelists speak of the miracles of Jesus, but St. John does not use the word "miracle" but "sign" for the wonderful acts of Jesus. Because the purpose of the miracles Jesus did was to point to Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the world.

Jesus began his public ministry with His baptism by John the Baptist and called His first disciples. Jesus and these disciples were invited to the wedding at Cana. It seems that Jesus did not plan a miracle for this event, but for His mother's sake, He did one.

And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him: They have no wine. Jesus said to her, "What have you to do with me, woman? My hour has not yet come. His mother said to those who

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served: "Do whatever He tells you. And Jesus changed water in stone jars to wine.

The Gospel according to John is different from the others in several ways. The three Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are simply narrative documents of the life and works of Jesus. They follow the same outline. Jesus did this, Jesus said this, then this happened, etc. The Gospel according to John is more reflective and philosophical. This gospel was written against a false philosophy that existed at that time and still exists today. False teachers seek a deeper understanding of God's spirituality and holiness. They say that the spiritual man must advance beyond the common pleasures of humanity: food, drink, marriage.

This is not the Word of God. The Gospel according to St. John was written to demonstrate against this false doctrine the depth of the mysteries of creation and incarnation. It begins with these words: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; And without him was not any thing made that was made.

What other book of the Bible begins with God in the beginning? The book of Genesis dealing with the creation of heaven and earth. The Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word, the second

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person of the Holy Trinity, was present in the creation of the world.

What did God say at the end of each day of the six days of creation.

"This is good". God created earth, sky, sea, trees and herbs, animals, and the human race, and in each instance said, "This is good."

Moreover, according to the first chapter of John, And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. God in the beginning declared His creation good. The human body as God's creation is good. The Son of God was born in a human body, grew up and lived as one of us.

Also, at the wedding of Cana, Jesus blessed the wedding by His presence. Furthermore, by the first miracle of His public ministry He blessed that marriage. God instituted marriage in the beginning as well. The first chapter of Genesis says, And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created him; Male and female created them (Genesis 1:27). The second chapter reads: Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh (Genesis 2:24). In the first chapter of Genesis is found the first commandment of God, before the 10 commandments of Moses. Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subjugate it, and rule over

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the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the beasts that move on
the earth (Genesis 1:28).

This is the will of God for us from the beginning and it is a blessing
from God. Marriage is a blessing and the children that result from
marriage are a blessing. God wants us to live as families, so the Fourth
Commandment is very important. Honor your father and your mother.
And what is the promise of the Fourth Commandment? To live a long
life.

At that time of St. John, there were those who said the spiritual
man should avoid marriage and common pleasures. But, St. John says,
our Lord incarnated by the Virgin Mary, blessed marriage and common
pleasures like food and drink. God has given us the five senses to enjoy
the beauty of his creation, which is good.

Also, they despise the gift of God in marriage who say, there is no
need to commit to one woman, or one man, to enjoy sex. It is better to
enjoy sex with many women or many men. God created the pleasure of
sex, but not for selfish satisfaction.

Parents understand the need for limits for their children. Who
likes chocolate? Everyone likes chocolate and other sweet things.
However, parents understand that diet should be balanced for healthy
growth. It is not good to eat only chocolate or your favorite food.

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Nor is it good to enjoy sex outside of a committed couple. This is God's will for the well-being of the children and their parents. For each child has a father and a mother to care for him or her. Also, for the companionship of the couple for life.

Let's learn the Fourth Commandment because parents are a blessing to us in this regard: To care for us as children and teach ourselves all the things we need to know to live in this world in peace and security. In addition, parents have the responsibility to teach their children to worship God and to have faith in Christ to live with Him in eternity. So, it's a blessing to have parents and to be a parent. No one has perfect parents, but at least they have given us the gift of life. Therefore, let us honor our parents, and as parents we will care for our children and teach them the Word of God.

Seek the will of God in His Word and prayer. Jesus wants you to know that He blesses all Christian marriages in the same way that He blessed the marriage of Cana. If we think of marriage as a gift from God, we first seek God's will, and our marriage will be a blessing. Amen.