



The First Miracle”
Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford
John 2: 1-11
January 19, 2020
9:15 AM Service

Come and see!

The church season of Epiphany is all about the stories that reveal who Jesus is: his nature, his character, his values, his strength. We’ve looked at:

- the story of the magi who are the first to see him the new king
- the story of his baptism which reveals his identity as God’s Son
- today we look at what has been considered the first miracle he performed

Come and see!

John 2:1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” ⁴ “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.” ⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.” ¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

There’s so much that could be reflected upon:

- Jesus at a wedding; showing up and being present in a time of crisis
- The use of the stone jars instead of typical clay wine bottles
- We could focus on the symbolism of abundance/over-the-top grace
- Or we could get caught up in “how did this happen?”
- Glimpse of more to come....the first miracle..

There’s so much to reflect upon – and I invite us to take time this week to consider these more deeply,

But today I want us to come and see something else, what others around Jesus are doing.

It seems that Jesus doesn't even move in the story – he only speaks.

First of all, there's Mary who brings the need to the attention of Jesus.

They've run out of wine

A problem that doesn't seem to be a life or death issue

But it shows her compassion for the couple and the hosts of the wedding

That this mishap could bring dishonor to them

And then there's the servants who are bearers of the miracle:

Their example of non-questioning obedience

who lug 120 - 180 gallons of water

Let's say there's 3 servants – that is 40 – 60 gallons a piece.

Back and forth from the well (water source)

How many times? With 4 gallons each trip: 10 – 15 times?

And there's the disciples

People who may be tentatively following and obviously still wondering if they've made the right choice in following Jesus; for it says that it wasn't until after this miracle that they believed in Jesus.

Important reflection for us today:

Because we need a miracle, don't we?

- We've run out of wine – that is the easy, party days of the church are over, aren't they?
- And there's anxiety...there's not enough of something.

We need something!

But we come and see this story which might give us a few ideas:

To be Mary

Have eyes to see the places of need

Have the compassion to care

To speak up

Be the intercessor - A particularly important role as we remember the work of MLK this weekend.

To be the servants

Do what Jesus says

Don't expect that the miracle is yours to do, but simply participate in making it happen.

What has Jesus said to do?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those in prison

Bringing hope into the broken places of the world

Tell people about me

And oh, it can be tedious, difficult sometimes, repetitive work....

Food ministries, Buddy Break, weekly and seasonal ministries,

But I believe that as we do what we are meant to do, Jesus is there doing what he does!

To be the disciples

Believe in Jesus' glory

To be built up in our faith

I believe that Jesus continues to make water into wine today

What are we doing to participate?