

**The Anglican Church of Freiburg**  
Second Sunday After Epiphany  
January 16, 2022  
Homily

The Wedding of Cana  
The Sign that Revealed the Glory of the Son of God  
Text: **John 2:1-11**

It was a cold night and the passer-by was shivering when he saw some light on the other side of the road. Walking towards the light he saw the glow of a sign board which read- Hot soup and Bread. Come In. The traveller rushed into a very cold welcome by an elderly man who lived in the home who gave him a stare of his life. Well, the traveller said I saw the board of the Hot soup outside and so came in. He expected that the man would get him a soup bowl. O! the man sighed. I am a bill board writer and that board is to be delivered to a bakery tomorrow. Ringing a bell? Bill board Christianity? This could happen to our spiritual journeys too. Sign Boards or Sign Posts that could be deceptive.

The marriage of Cana is a story that all of us like. The tale of turning water to wine is something we all enjoy telling our children. Whenever we get an opportunity to travel to the Holy Land one of the souvenirs, we never miss would be the Wine from Cana alongside the water of Jordan. A quick recap of the story – Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana. The wine ran out. It could be a very embarrassing scenario. Jesus' mom was there and told him- they have no wine and Jesus said My hour has not come. She said Do whatever he tells you. Now there were six waterpots for cleaning purposes and Jesus asked that it be filled with water. Disciples did to the brim. Now give it to the steward to serve. They did. Amazed the steward said Normally the best wine is given first but here you kept it for the last. Disciples believed. Glory was revealed and it was the first of the signs of the kingdom. Continuing with our discussions on the Epiphany may our draw our attention to the “revelations” we see in this text.

**1. The Revelation of the Deeper Significance of the Visions of Mary**

Mary was invited to her cousins wedding and suddenly there was a crisis. Mary knew her son and so was sure that he would be able to do something. She would not had a clue as to what would her son do. But she knew that he would find a way. So she just told Jesus the problem- there is no wine. When Jesus responded that his hour has not yet come Mary perhaps prodding him into action tells the servants- if he tells you something **JUST DO IT.**

John the gospel writer is revealing unto us the personhood of Jesus. Significantly he did not have any mention of the infancy narratives. No angels. No dreams. No manger. No magi. No Herod. No childhood. John the Baptist was already pointing to the Lamb of God. The little band of disciples are just being formed and here is the introduction to the first woman character in the gospel of John- Mary the mother of Jesus. John interestingly does not name her ever in the gospel.

But Mary knew if not as the Son of God, but as her son, he would not be cold towards the needs of the home. That is parenting. I have raised my child in such a way that when he

sees a crisis in another's life he would not walk by. He will act. Mary has contained in her heart much of the mysteries of the revelations she has already had and she knew one day her little boy would be the Savior of the world that the angel had promised but till then he would anyway be that person who would mitigate the pain of others.

## **2. The Revelation of the Miraculous possibilities of Jesus- the Hour of the Lord**

There could have been no better timing for the family for Christ to have revealed his glory and possibilities. It was when they were in the brim of the edge that the hand of Christ came to dole them out. The intervening was at the most appropriate time. The "kairotic" moment.

Well when would Christ best reveal himself in our lives. Perhaps when we need him the most. One of the reasons why we talk about a life without Christ is the reality called Affluenza. We do not need him. But at one point or the other we realise how important is Christ not only in the course of history but also in our lives and that is the Epiphany moment

We must however acknowledge that this revelation is the beginning of the the journey towards the cross and beyond- yes Cana was the cross road that sent out the invitation to the mystical realities of the kingdom of God.

## **3. The Revelation of the transforming intervention of Jesus- the Host of the Homes.**

The transformation that happened in the house at Cana can be viewed as the radical change which can be summarised as the change from

Emptiness into Fullness

Shame into Honour

Anxiety into Rejoicing

Emptiness was not just an experience of the empty wine skins and wine barrels but also of their dignity. They were at the brim of shame and disgrace and the resultant anxiety. But the timely intervention of Jesus made a big difference.

This morning are we going through experiences of emptiness and depravity, shame and disgrace, anxiety and anguish – a sense of utter helplessness? Something we really cannot communicate to others.

The revelation of Christ and the glory of Christ can be life transforming.

## **4. The Revelation of fruit of obedience- the Servants of the Home**

The story of the wedding at Cana also has lessons on obedience in our journey of discipleship.

Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water. And they filled it to the brim. I have always liked the phrase- to the brim!! It talks about an attitude. It calls us to reflect on our hundred percent on any initiative that we are called to make.

Jesus told the servants to serve the same to the steward and no questions asked they took it. Water drawn from the vessels meant for cleansing purposes. There could have been hundred questions asked. A researcher mind would be filled with questions. Fair enough. But faith sometimes challenges us towards implicit obedience. Believing without asking questions.

They knew where it came from but chose to keep quiet. There is a big lesson on when to speak and when not to speak in the story of the servants. Revelation does not necessarily always happen because we speak it could also happen because we do not speak.

#### **5. The Revelation of the mysterious influence- the chief chef- the wine steward**

The steward did know that there was a crisis and he also knew that the crisis is now attended to but he never knew how.

He could not comprehend the potency of what Jesus could do because he did not know that the Jesus who was there was the Son of God- neither did others.

This could happen to you and me- not really understanding what this Jesus who is in our midst can really do in our lives and that of the others

We see our neighbour so excited about Jesus and we do not understand why- for we do not know that the touch of Jesus did make that big difference.

#### **6. The Revelation of the One who can increase our faith- the Disciples**

The band of followers needed an act of confirmation on the power of the one who they were deciding to follow. They had to get the feeling that it is worth following him.

Andrew, Simon, Philip, Nathaniel they were all excited at their initial conversation with Jesus and about what the Baptist had foretold about him. The Lamb of God, the one who was before me and the one who is greater than me, who has the winnowing fork, the one who can baptise with fire. Yes the sign was a pointer towards the possibility of the Messiah.

Friends, do we need a sign today to increase our faith. If so, what kind of a sign do we expect around the epiphany of the Lord.

#### **7. The Revelation of the Glory of God- the motif of the miracle narrative**

Glory is the overflowing of the profound perfection of the Divine. It is a profound theme of the Bible and specially the gospel of John. The pinnacle of the glorification is seen at the 'hour' of the cross but surely not without the story of Lazarus telling us that glory of God is revealed when the shackle of death is let loose.

Glory is attributed to the son by the father and the son ensured that all that is done glorifies the father. This is a good paradigm for Christian life. And that's why our liturgy and life is replete with the prayer- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end.

As we read the story of the Wedding at Cana yet again this morning what is the good news that we take home

Well the miracle at Cana was the first of the signs of Jesus and those signs continue to reveal the glory of God in our midst, in and through our lives.

Yes our life is a Sign- perhaps the only sign another would see to be pointed to the life changing encounter with Jesus.

Amen.

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise