**Praying for Small Things**

Based on [John 2:1-11](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn2.1-11)

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Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. And Jesus, Mary his mother, and his disciples were there. Weddings are supposed to be celebrations of joy and festivities…but there’s a problem. The wine runs out. **As you can imagine, this would be quite a social blunder and embarrassment for the newlywed couple**. Mary feels sorry for the couple wants to help. It’s a good thing Jesus is there.

Jesus is the messiah; he is the Saviour, he is king of kings and Lord of Lords. “**Our help is in the Name of the Lord**” the Psalmist says (124:8), and Mary wants help. So she turns to Jesus for help and says, “**They have no wine**.”

You might be thinking, “What a silly thing to bother Jesus with. Does the messiah really have nothing more important to do than to avoid embarrassment for a young couple getting married?” After all, t**he reason Jesus was appointed the Christ was not to save anyone’s wedding day from social disgrace. It was for him to be the bridegroom, who loves his bride, the church, and gives himself up for her, to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of water with the word. Jesus was anointed messiah so that he might present the church to God in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish”** (Ephesians 5:25-27). That is the hour for which Jesus came.

Mary turns to Jesus for help and says, “They have no wine.” Jesus responds, “**Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come**.” He calls his mother, “Woman”, which is not disrespectful. It’s simply that he does not respond to her as her son, but as her saviour. Mary doesn’t come to Jesus as a mother, she comes to him as a faithful disciple, knowing that he can do all things, and indeed does all things well.

Mary comes to him to solve a problem, and it may seem like a small problem. R**unning out of wine at a wedding seems a small thing when compared to the *real reason* for his coming into the world. *Saving the world from sin, death and the devil* is infinitely more important than sparing newlyweds social disgrace**. But it is important to the newlyweds, and it’s important to Mary who has compassion for them. Therefore, it is important to God, who hears prayer. **Avoiding a little embarrassment may seem like a small thing, but Jesus doesn’t consider the things that are important to us, small.**

Going to the Lord with our problems, asking him for help: that’s prayer. **Are you ever tempted to give up on prayer…because God is so big, and so important? Someone might say: “If I pray about problems in my life, they probably don’t even make a blip on God’s radar screen. Yes, my problems seem big to me. They cause me anxiety and pain, but that’s because of my own weakness.** God won’t send help, my problems are too little for Him.”

Beloved in the Lord, learn from Mary’s discipleship. Learn from her faith. Mary doesn’t consider this **“lack of wine and social embarrassment**” too little a thing to bother the Messiah with, but she actually goes to him, “prays” to him, calls upon Jesus for help because she knows he can help *and* that he cares enough to do so.

We know and we remind ourselves often enough that nothing is too big for God, and that is true. But today our faith reminded of this lesson, that *nothing is too little for God either*. No problem is too little for Jesus who loves you and sacrifices for you, to cast your anxieties upon him in prayer, and he will send help.

(1) One time parents were bringing their little children so that Jesus might bless them. And his disciples turned them away, no doubt because “the Messiah can't be concerned with little people and little problems.” But Jesus says, "**suffer the little children to come to me, and do not hinder them, for of such is the kingdom of God**."

(2) Another time, after Jesus had been teaching the crowds all day, it was getting late and his disciples said “let’s go eat,” but Jesus saw that the crowds were hungry. The disciples said, "**nothing we can do about it.**" And their lack of faith was shown that day, because they didn't ask Jesus to feed the 5000. But Jesus had compassion on them, even without anyone asking him to help. Even though his Word is bread from heaven and he had already filled them with his teaching, he had compassion on them and fed their bellies too. It is true that **man does not live by bread alone, but every word from God...but that doesn't mean he doesn't bother to give us our daily bread**. He even tells us to pray for it.

(3) And when his hour had finally come, when Jesus was raised up in glory on the cross, when he was suffering the full measure of His Father's wrath...**when one could even understand if "the messiah himself" (of whom so much is expected) would perhaps “forget about others for a moment” and focus on getting himself through the next few hours, he doesn't.** He still thinks and cares about others. He cares about his enemies and says, "**Father forgive them, for they know not what they do**." And from the height and agony of the cross, he looks down at his mother standing there with the disciple whom he loved and said, "**Woman, behold your son**!" and to the disciple **"Behold your mother**." Even on the cross he is an obedient son and a loving savior. He left nothing undone, but kept the 4th commandment honouring his mother, ensuring that she is looked after in his absence.

Psalm 50:15 says, "**Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will answer you**." Mary knew the Psalms, so in the wedding day of trouble, she called upon the messiah--who just happened to be her son. She didn't ask him for a miracle; she just asked for help. You see, Mary showed faith…not in that it was too big of a problem and that only Jesus could solve it; ***but in that it was too little of a problem and yet she knew Jesus would help.***

And so Jesus had the servants fill the stone jars with water, but it didn’t remain just water, because Jesus added to it, the fruit of the vine which gladdens the hearts of men (Psalm 104:15)." **So too, when our Lord instituted baptism, he commanded his** church until the end of the age to **add something** to water. In our baptism, **He adds** the **word of God to water to save us.** In this washing of renewal and rebirth by the Holy Spirit, He washes **us into little children who have the right and privilege to call upon their dear Father in heaven in all circumstances great or small.**