

The First-reported Miracle

We're all no-doubt well acquainted with what is generally seen as Jesus' first miracle - when His mother Mary asked Him to help the hosts and guests at a wedding reception. Specifically, they'd run out of wine! And Jesus' initial reaction didn't at, face value, seem all that positive - as He wasn't yet ready to reveal His true 'identity. Even so, we learn that he transformed ceremonial cleansing water into good quality wine...

Was this the exercise of some sort of supernatural power, which He would understandably be reluctant to perform? He was certainly not a show-off! Or could it be that He would have known that there would be limits to what such a display would achieve. By that I mean that once a reputation is gained for doing 'the inexplicable', that would encourage people to expect more and more! That appears to be human nature throughout history, doesn't it? Much wants more!!

Jesus had to consider a sort of balance between temptation to take this opportunity to be seen as 'special', and helping His mum, friends and neighbours out of a potentially embarrassing jam. Of course, Jesus wanted to avoid any sort of reputation - of having extraordinary 'power' - before He was ready. So, the choice was either simply to: 'do his mother's bidding' (bearing in mind she had no idea how he could help, nor what He would actually do); or help in a way that would not be seen as in any-way showy, or self-seeking - revealing too much too soon about His true nature and purpose.

But we note that Mary left the solution to Jesus, as she told the servants to do whatever He told them. Surely this is a lesson about absolute trust, even in situations that weren't of urgent necessity - but relevant to the ups and downs of ordinary living...

Thought for the Week: In the particularly uncertain and worrisome times we live in, I sense that there may still be many who, quite possibly with the best of intentions, may be overly-eager to see God perform miracles to help humankind out of this “mess” - this “spiral” away from self-less global cooperation towards **self-seeking** (national) isolationism.... This latter way off thinking isn't confined to the USA...

At Cana 2000 years ago Jesus wasn't as eager to perform miracles as others were to see Him do them. Might have become over-eager for miracles to solve all the issues that concern us. Maybe we have to learn (in some cases relearn) trust of, patience in and obedience to God's purpose - trusting that all can-and-will be well in His own good time.

It's all-too-easy to perceive the 'darkness' of the times, and fail to embrace the light that's all around us, all the time. Maybe we can't always perceive "God-at-work" in the political and social turmoil that's unravelling - that doesn't mean to say that He doesn't care, or isn't there. He does (care), and is (there).

Almighty God as we give continual thanks for your son, Jesus who is the Light of the World, and for your call to us to share in that light. We pray that our Church may be a light to those who live in the darkness of despair and fear, and reveal to them His caring love and purpose.

Show your presence in our daily lives - as you make the ordinary very special and the special, extraordinary... Amen

Adapted from a CBC Intercession