



Risen Savior Lutheran Church

14700 Leavenworth Rd., Basehor, KS 66007 913-724-2900

Joy, we want that. True joy. I don't know what's more foolish, you thinking you can win a lottery or you dreaming what you'll do with the money. Joy, grounded in this world, in goods, even in human emotions is fleeting. Now joy of marriage in today's gospel. That's true joy. The vicar may know something of that.

Joy describes the wedding at Cana, any wedding. In Jesus' day, after a man, a woman wanted to marry; their fathers come together, plan the wedding. If the men planned it, of course nothing could ever go wrong. They'd write the marriage covenant. The young man, woman would say to each other, Today, You are my husband, my wife. Then the families would've a betrothal dinner. The couple, considered married. That's why Matthew's Gospel begins, Joseph and Mary were betrothed and when Mary is found to be with child, Joseph considered to quietly divorce her. Betrothal began a couple's wedding journey. She'd then wear a veil in the town square that she was taken. He would go back home to his family's home; begin to add a room for he and his bride. Could take up to year to build. When the room was built, the groom would send his groomsmen to go his bride's home for her. They wouldn't know when this hour would occur. Consider how Jesus says He goes to prepare a place for you, speaks of wedding feasts for His unexpected return. Well, as the groomsmen approached the bride's home, they blow the ram's horn. With joy the bride, her party would go out and to the groom's home. Then the wedding party really begins, last up to 7 days.

That's what's going at Cana. Jesus brought His joy. Marriage, created by God, defined by Him, blessed by Him with his first sign and is the basis of all authority. Jesus, His bride the Church is the model for our marriages. Government, at it's best is to protect marriage not add to it by redefining it. The same goes for the sanctity of life, as God creates and is the authority of all life; government's duty, even ours, is to protect life from conception to natural death.

The first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana, manifested His glory. First doesn't mean numerical first although it may've been His first miracle. First here indicates, preeminent, what other miracles would flow from; and looks to.

That's why it seems odd to us, when Jesus points to His cross, says, **My hour has not yet come.** The Lord begins His Ministry in this way: with an act of extravagant waste to people who don't deserve it. This is the character of

His Ministry, the purpose of His suffering, death, and resurrection. Here is your hope. You have no right that He would heal our land from the lies of marriage and abortion, but we pray that He does. We have no right to be His people, to be forgiven, but He has declared us to be so. He hears our prayers. He loves with unmerited love. Happened **on the third day**. Jesus gives a preview of the joy of the resurrection; the feast Isaiah declares, the new covenant in wine the prophets spoke. **6 ceremonial washing jars** of the Law. Not much joy in that. In Christ, the new creation has come. Bath water becomes wedding wine. Jesus fills the Law for you and His grace overflows from the brim, pours out His blood, a wine from heaven, to fill hearts with the joy of forgiveness.

You've saved the best until now. More than a comment on the wine, it's a comment on Jesus, appointed to be poured out in the fullness of time.

There comes a time for each of us, when the wine runs out. Our problems aren't necessarily earth shaking events or matters of life and death. Once in a while, juggling our responsibilities, life unravels, our neat little world comes unglued. Like the time when wine ran out in Cana. Have often have we complained against God that we're not richer, thinner, healthier, less stress, or have more time and things? How often do we lead ourselves into gloom, dissatisfied with what we have? How have we lament against the God of joy, "There is no wine." Moan, Complain, draw other into our misery? Lash out at others! Worry! Or do you turn to the only One who can do something about it? Mary knew what to do.

With a voice of faith she lays her requests before Him. She gives the servants the best advice the world has ever heard: **Do whatever He says.** The last recorded words of Mary. **Do whatever He says. Whatever!** It doesn't matter exactly what His words will be, for she knows that whatever He says -will be good. So also should we trust, be confident, to lay our requests before Him knowing that He will answer you for your good. For you as well to believe that nothing, nothing of your concern is outside of His concern, that no request is trivial; He hears, answers for your good, in ways beyond your thoughts.

The miracle of Cana continues; the wedding feast goes on. Jesus the bridegroom, comes in the Divine Service to you, His bride, the Church, to celebrate your everlasting marriage.

In Him. you will find perfect joy, peace beyond measure. You will be content. From Him, His cross flows your joy in you, your family. Despite what may seem as His rejection or silence, know that He is working for your good. He knows what you need. He knows your heart's desire. He knows what is best. He will not fail you. He will teach you, in the Cross to have Joy from sadness,

hope from despair, triumph in defeat, washed from filth, saints from sinners, life in death. Today and always. Like wine in Cana, His gifts, His miracles, the best for you. Everything for your good is given you, all that is His. **Do whatever He tells you**, still the best advice ever. His hour has come, that your hearts would be glad in Him. He fills you to the brim, forgiven and loved again and again, as His beloved. What feasting and joy is yours.