

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - C - 2019
Is.62.1-5//1 Cor. 12.4-11//John 2.1-11

→an experienced cook knows the critical time in preparing a meal so that all the parts of it are ready at the optimum time as the family gathers in the kitchen to eat.

→the good stand-up comedian knows that the joke falls flat if the punch line is not delivered with exact timing...and....the good quarterback knows that in order to complete the touchdown pass he has to wait until the receiver has cleared some space between himself and the defender...delivering the pass just at the right time...

→in a word...timing, as they say...is everything

→even the right thing.....done at the wrong time...can easily end up being the wrong thing...

→just ask the driver who pulls into busy intersection before the light turns green or the parachute jumper who waits too long to pull the cord deploying his chute.

→it is important to know **what is** the right thing to do....**BUT** it is also important to know the appropriate time to do it.

→and it is this important question...about “timing” that comes up in our Gospel reading today...

→the setting is a wedding in the small town of Cana, not too far from Nazareth.

→it is a festive occasion, drawing together family and friends from both near and far to dine and drink.

→weddings were considered big deals back then...just as they are today....and especially during the time of the Roman occupation...when so many lived under the rule of the Romans...being overworked, underpaid and unfairly taxed.

→the occasion of a wedding provided some much needed relief...

→it was an emotional oasis in the otherwise barren and arid landscape of the time...

→[and] today we hear the last words of Mary (the mother of Jesus) ever to be written in our scriptures....recall the scene...there is she is with Jesus and all kinds of other guests at a wedding feast.....

→when the unthinkable happens...a most embarrassing moment...the wine runs out.

→so Mary, coming to the rescue, says to the waiters: "do whatever he tells you"

→and Jesus being a bit hesitant questions his mother's words...

→and I am sure the look that Mary gave to Jesus was that a familiar look that most mother's give...a look that clearly said..."do the right thing."

→"do the right thing" /// have you ever thought how these days it seems as if it is getting harder and harder to **"do the right thing"**

→with the way our society is, and the way people behave, with the way our actions are constantly tested and scrutinized ...doing the right thing....morally, ethically, socially, and spiritually is becoming more and more of a challenge for all of us each and every day.

PAUSE

→this coming week we will commemorate MLK....as well as the Supreme Court's decision in this country to allow legalized abortions

→and on the surface the events of this week could be seen as a day to honor a great person and to continue the fight against abortion

→but I would like to suggest that the remembrances of this coming week speak to issues that are far more reaching and encompassing.....far more deep and intrinsic to our well-being....

→[in fact] they speak to the very fabric of our life, the fabric of our society and to the fabric of our social and moral beliefs within the Church

→[you know] one of the constant challenges facing you and me today is knowing the difference between right and wrong...and these days sometimes that is hard to determine and understand...even harder at time to grasp and accept...and yet at the same time, very often it can also be as simple as $2 + 2$

PAUSE

→today we are being asked....similar to each and every Sunday..... “to do and follow the words and teachings of Jesus...i.o.w.....to do the right thing”

---to do the right thing when it comes to respecting each other

---to do the right thing when it comes to accepting one another

---to do the right thing when it comes to treating each other equally and fairly

when comes to helping those less fortunate than ourselves

when it comes to making, upholding and sticking to the commitments and responsibilities that we have made in our lives.

doing the right thing means exactly that **DOING** the **RIGHT THING** instead of [perhaps always] choosing to do what we want, or what feels good, or what's going to benefit us the most

PAUSE

→in today's gospel....Jesus was faced with a dilemma...and throughout his life...he was constantly faced with doing what was right....versus...doing what was easy or convenient or self-serving....and you and I are no different

throughout our lives...we will constantly face situations and dilemmas that will force us to choose between doing what is right....from what.....at times may appear to be more easy, or more convenient or more self-serving.

→and in today's world, and in our society,now more than ever, the challenge before us, the challenge of our faith is to completely and totally do what is right....to do what is respectful...to do what the Gospel challenges us to do

→...especially if we hope to continue to call ourselves people of faith...and more importantly the children of God.....

in the end....the message is quite simple: →listen to what He tells you and more importantly do and live what is truly right and just