

**This week we have the third manifestation of Jesus as the Christ
Following on the heels of the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord**

Today we have the miracle at Cana

All of these events point to one thing

This child is no ordinary child

This man is no ordinary man

These were for all to see

Yet many chose not to see

Many chose not to follow

Many chose to go their own way

Rather than conform to his way

For Zion's sake I will not be silent

For Jerusalem's sake, I will not be quiet

The Jewish nation had turned her back on their God

But God chose not to leave her to her own devices

They were His Chosen People

Yet they decided to go their own way

But God would not let them go quietly

He would not remain silent

He would speak through the Word

Through his son

He would call them back

Offering them forgiveness for their transgressions

Nations would see that they were not forsaken

But would be blessed

They would be espoused to God

And God would rejoice in them

And they were to be a light to the world

And God would unite Himself to them

We see in our second reading

This union will be blessed by the Spirit

Not for individual self-glorification

But individual gifts

Wisdom, knowledge

Faith, healing

Prophecy and discernment of spirits

All of these, given to individuals

But for the building of the community

Through the gifts of the Spirit, the community is blessed

The Spirit continues to give her gifts to us today

What are we doing with them?

The community that is blessed with these varied gifts is the Church

God desires to give us everything

He holds nothing back

In our Gospel

The wine is running out

This is a major problem in the lives of this newly married couple

But before any embarrassing moment occurs

Mary notices

And she goes to her son

They have no wine

When he asks how that affects him

Mary responds simply

Telling the servants: *Do whatever he tells you*

Fill the water jugs

And they fill them to the brim

120 gallons or more

And not just any wine

But the choicest wine he could imagine

God desires to give us an abundance of good things

What is beyond our imagination

The bride and groom would never dream of having water turn into wine

They would never dream that the wine would be so abundant

God offers us his gifts of the Spirit

If we can only open our hearts and minds to receive them

This first miracle or sign of Jesus'

It is about more than changing water into wine

It is about more than an isolated event some 2000 years ago

It is about us today

And Christ's power to change us

To take the ordinary

And make it extra-ordinary

Our lives can change

A life course can be altered

Choices we have made do not direct our future

That is a trap of the evil one

That we are what we are

Christ can take whatever we have to offer

Even a past of bad choices

A past of sinful actions

Personal loss

He can take the water of our past

And bless it

To become a choice wine offered to God

When we see what Jesus did with his first miracle

He went to an out of the way place

To the little known town of Cana

So unimportant that we really don't know where it was

We know it was close to Nazareth, but not the exact location

His miracle was not to change the lives of many people witnessing it

It was to help a simple couple from embarrassment

Whose names are not even recorded

He has the power to transform the water into wine

He has to power to transform our gifts and talents as well

When we do what he tells us to do

When we open our hearts to him

He takes the ordinariness of our lives

And makes them extra-ordinary

He can take simple things we offer

Visiting a friend who is sick or lonely

Parents or teachers instructing children

Simple words of encouragement to someone

Helping someone in need

Becoming involved in new ministries

Offering ourselves in so many ways

Most of them unnoticed

In the everydayness of life

Letting Christ into the ordinary

Letting him change the water of our lives

Into the wine he desires

So we can offer the talents we have been given

And form a world we can't imagine