

The model of Mary's faith in the Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-12)


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Abstract

Faith is essential for Christians on the journey of grace to follow God and reach out to others. In flourishing their faith, they can find precious help from Mary's example of faith in the wedding at Cana, which is full of humility and positively waiting for God's will.

Keywords: Mary's faith, The wedding of Cana, God's will

Introduction

Faith plays an important role in human life in such a way that it is not only necessary for salvation but also brings great things to those who open their hearts to receive and respond to God's gifts. Jesus once told his disciples: "if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible to you" (Mt 17:20). However, how to keep the faith alive and make God's gift of faith flourish in the complex and volatile daily life is not an easy and smooth thing. In that situation, the model of Mary's faith in the wedding at Cana, which will be presented in this writing, must be of great help to everyone.

The Wedding of Cana

The Fourth Gospel's account at the beginning of chapter 2 presents us with an idyllic scene at the wedding of Cana. Mary is invited to the wedding feast, and her presence entails Jesus and His disciples. The great joy of the newlyweds goes down because an unexpected incident of running out of alcohol happens. This confuses the headwaiter because the wedding party is in danger of losing its fun. Mary, with a delicate female sensibility, does not want this unexpected situation to happen. Her great faith saves the newlyweds and keeps their joy well with them. How does Mary set an example for us to believe in God?

The first thing that must be mentioned about Mary's model of faith is humility. This feature manifests itself in three specific dimensions: she enters the dialogue with Jesus, is simple in prayer, and always keeps a humble attitude as God's handmaid. Mary says to Jesus: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). First of all, Mary's faith has a dialogue dimension in a relationship with God. A self-satisfied person concentrating everything on himself as the button of the universe will not need to care about anyone else, nor a personal

relationship in which real conversations will blossom. This is not to Mary, who enters into the dialogue with Jesus in faith and prays for others' needs and interests. Other speaking, her humble faith wears on a dimension of dialogue with God. Moreover, her humble faith is shown by just-it-be words from her heart. She is not meaningless with sparkling repetition in prayer because that attitude is of those who wrongly think that it is the forced way for God's acceptance. She offers the plea with simple true words of prayer to express her needs because she is convinced that God "knows what you need before you ask Him." (Mt 6:7), and God is more interested in the loyal human heart than in sacrifice (Hs 6:6). Mary sets us an example way of humble prayer in faith. In addition, her humility of faith always keeps her in the right relationship with God. People who petition so eagerly will be in the dangerous temptation of self-pride that God must follow according to their will. Mary does not consider her fervent faith a condition for forcing God, who was completely free to respond to her request. Mary's faith contains the profound humility of her saying "yes" as a humble handmaid to the will of God even from the moment of the angel's annunciation (Lk 1:38). Thus, Mary sets an example for us of a humble faith that is open to the dialogue with God, is simple in prayer, and humble as God's handmaid. Now we wonder what Mary's faith would be like when Jesus seemed to refuse her request: "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come" (Jn 2:4).

This leads to the second part of Mary's model of faith: she patiently and actively waits for God's will. This is shown through three aspects: accepting the darkness of reason, doing everything in her ability from her position, and leading people to God. Indeed, the word "woman" in Jesus' calling creates a new strange relationship between Him and Mary (Keck et al., 1994), and the concept of "hour" in Jesus' answer is controversial to exegetes to understand what Jesus means to delay it (Moloney, 1998) (Nichols, 2015). For Mary, she does not ask her faith to make God's Word clear immediately, but she believes that Jesus had his way and time in doing this. It is her faith that illuminates the darkness of the mind in the light of hope. The next aspect of her faith does everything according to her capability and position. While waiting for God's will to be done, she arranges servants to be ready to watch and wait for Jesus to reveal the glory of His intended hour: "Whatever he says to you, do it" (Jn 2:5). At this point, Judith A. Bauer agrees that Mary's intervention teaches us a lesson in perseverance (Bauer, 2004). However, the patience of waiting in her faith is more of this: It has an entirely positive dimension. In addition, her faith leads others to God. Mary instructs the servants to turn to Jesus, listen attentively to him, and do what he commands. She creates the starting point for a newly oriented faith journey in that the servants would walk to Jesus, witness with their own eyes the glory of the sign Jesus performed at the wedding of Cana, and ultimately believe in him. Thus, her faith guides others to believe in God. In general, in all three aspects above, such as accepting the darkness of reason, fulfilling one's duty wholeheartedly from one's own position, and leading others to God, Mary shows us the patience to wait positively in her faith in God.

Conclusion

In short, the wedding feast at Cana is not only an important event for the newlyweds but all believers. Through this account, Mary's faith model teaches us to be humble and actively wait for God's will. Following her faith, all Christians can experience the same joy she lived and become disciples of Jesus, spreading the humble and patient faith to the surroundings.

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Biodata

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