

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (2025 - C)

In our Holy Gospel today, we have this interesting account of a wedding that took place in the town of Cana in Galilee. Those attending included our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Lord's disciples. From this fact, I think it's safe to say that everyone there knew each other. Perhaps the newlyweds were from a family of fishermen as were many of the Apostles. Maybe their parents were also disciples of Jesus. We don't know because the gospel doesn't say, but there must have been some close connection between them all for Jesus and His Mother and His disciples to have attended the wedding.

That said, there are a number of things of interest here. One is that it was here at this wedding that our Lord worked His first miracle. Before that time, Jesus had seemed like any other rabbi. Other than what had happened at His baptism, there was nothing extraordinary about Him. So this miracle, changing water into wine, was completely unexpected.

A second thing of interest is this. Jesus was not planning to work a miracle at this time. He was not planning to change water into wine. So when His mother pointed out that the newlyweds had run out of wine, Jesus said in reply, "**My hour has not yet come.**" Still, at the request and insistence of His Blessed Mother, Jesus acted.

One more thing of interest is this. God never does anything by accident. He always has a reason for what He does. So we might ask, "Why did our Lord work His first miracle at a wedding?"

He did so first, to please His mother. He did so because she asked Him, and secondly, He did so because He wanted to emphasize the centrality of marriage in His divine plan. Both these things are very significant. So let me speak about marriage first.

Marriage is significant because it is the foundation of all human societies. It is the essential building block of society. Nothing is more fundamental. In God's plan, a man and a woman come together in love, and from their love come children who continue the human race.

It is also within the family that the children are raised to know and love God and to serve Him and also to become productive members of society. When families are strong and when the institution of marriage is held in high regard, nations are strong, but when the family is weak and marriage is brushed aside as of little or no importance, then nations fall.

That said, I don't have to tell you that marriage is in deep trouble in our country and around the world for that matter. Nearly all of you can tell sad stories about failed marriages and broken lives taken from your own families, and I could tell you more that are taken from my own extended family. We are all in the same boat here.

In addition, fewer and fewer people are even bothering to get married. Instead, they just live together for a time and then move on to someone else. Again, nearly all of us have stories of this kind in our own families.

You think to yourself, I raised my children differently than that, and you wonder where did I go wrong? I feel the same way when I see young people whom I taught and who were altar servers or who went on Steubenville or Totus Tuus retreats or who were excited about getting Confirmed, but who then go on to give up their faith or to move in and live with someone. It hurts, and it can be very discouraging.

So is there anything we can do? Yes. Yes there is.

First I would say this. Don't give up and don't give in. We need to realize that we are in a spiritual war, and it's a war for souls. The devil wants to drag the souls of your loved ones down to hell, and we have to fight him if we don't want that to happen.

So, don't give in to the temptation to give up and do nothing. Don't start thinking "What's the use?" "What's the point?" Here I am reminded of a guy who once told me, "Never resign." He said even if you lose 14 out of 15 battles, your one victory would also have been lost if you were not there to fight for it. So don't give in. Don't quit the fight.

A second temptation which follows the first is this. Once people give up, some even start helping others to lead immoral lives. It's as if these folks have switched sides and decided to help the evil one. They say things like "Everyone does that now" or "Times have changed." Then they go ahead and help their kids move in together or affirm their immoral lifestyles. Now it's true that some people are bent on jumping into hell, but we don't have to help push them.

So, above all else, the first thing we can do is stay the course. We are in a battle for souls and we are part of the Lord's army. So don't give up and don't give in.

So what else can we do? First, face the facts. Don't bury your head in the sand. We now have a huge problem. It is nothing less than the disintegration of society itself. That said, any large problem is really a lot of small problems piled up together. When you look at a big problem, you wonder what can I do? But that's the wrong way to look at things. You don't have to save a million people. All you have to do is work to save the ones God puts into your life.

Now to solve any problem, you first have to identify its cause. You can't fix a leaky roof until you find out where the leak is. The same is true with the crisis we have with marriage, but the good news is that we already know what is causing this crisis, and the cause is this.

We have separated love from life in marriage, and in so doing, in separating love and life, we have brought on all the problems we see today. Separating love from life has led to infidelity and increased divorce. It has led to promiscuity and living together without marriage. It has led to a fear of getting married, of pornography, of abortion and even a failure to understand that marriage, by its very nature, can only be between a man and a woman.

In God's plan, there are two reasons for marriage. First is so that love can grow and increase between the man and the woman. God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." He needs someone to love. Second, in God's plan, marriage is for new life, for children.

That is why marriage must be faithful and life-long. Love can only grow when one can trust the other with his or her whole life. Love can only grow when one gives to the other his or her whole self. So without life-long fidelity, there can be no lasting love.

In addition, children need both a father and a mother. Children need both a dad and a mom. That's because each parent contributes to the child's understanding of what it means to be a man and a woman. Children also have a right to know who their parents are. They should not be seen as products from a fertility clinic or the result of cloning or surrogate mothers or egg donors or sperm banks.

It's when love and life are separated that problems begin. Think about it. In times past, when people got married, they knew their intimate union was potentially life-giving. They knew that they could have a child together, and that meant their marriage (which was the place where they would become one) could have life-changing consequences. So it was not a trivial thing.

However, when intimacy no longer has the potential to be life-giving, then it does become trivial. Then, instead of having the potential to be life-changing, it now becomes just a friendly interaction like chatting on Facebook or playing a game or going out to eat or shopping.

But if intimacy is no longer life-changing, if there is no longer the potential to become a father or a mother, then why get married? Why do you need a life-long relationship? Why fidelity? Why do you need commitment? Why even between a man and a woman? The answer is you don't. When intimacy becomes trivial, when love and life are separated, you don't need any of those things. And here I should also mention that what you do need, the one thing you do need, is abortion for when the unwanted happens.

Now, is all of this good? No. And we know it's not good because we can see people hurting. We see the people we love being used and taken advantage of and afraid to make commitments because of what they have seen and experienced, but there is a solution. We can fix this by putting love and life back together in marriage.

So here's what we need to do. First, we must start with ourselves. If you have separated the love-giving and life-giving parts of intimacy in your marriage, or in how you think about things, then take steps to correct that. Get off the pill, or get a reversal. Reorder the way you think about things. That will help strengthen your own marriage and your witness to others. Also, if you are single, resolve to live chastely until you get married.

Second, talk to your children and grandchildren about these things – at the appropriate time of course. Also talk to friends, coworkers, neighbors who probably have no clue as to why things aren't working for them.

Third, pray for those who are struggling that God might heal them, and here I would return to something in our holy gospel today. I would remind you that our Lady's intercession is very powerful. She wants to help you just as she did those newlyweds at Cana.

So ask her to obtain the graces you need to live as God has called you to live. Then entrust your loved ones to her and ask her to protect them from the devil's lies. She will help you to fight the good fight in defense of love and life and marriage. Amen.