

“Listen to me, for blessed are those who keep My ways” (Prov 8:32)

There are three more lessons for us from the wedding at Cana—

☐ *Philosophy of Elders*

Mary was probably in her fifties. What a blessing it was to have someone like her in the function who had walked with the Lord for decades! (Jn 2:1). Ours is a generation which least respects the elders. Young people mistake education for experience. Bildad’s advice to Job is timeless: “Inquire, please, of the former age, and consider the things discovered by their fathers; for we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow. Will they not teach you and tell you and utter words from their heart?” (Job 8:8-10).

But for the inspired advice of Mary, the wedding feast would have ended up in utter chaos and confusion. It was she who directed the servants to Jesus (Jn 2:5). True there are traditions which are meaningless today. But our understanding gets enlightened when we listen to elders.

☐ *Positiveness of Expectation*

The shortage of wine was a blessing in disguise! The latter wine was tastier than the former (v 10). God is personally interested in each of our families. He despises no one. His outstretched hands of blessing on families are never withdrawn (Gen 1:27,28). Friend, don’t lose heart. Strengthen your tired hands and feeble knees. The Lord is mindful of your prayers and tears. It was on the “third day” that Jesus performed the miracle at Cana (Jn 2:1). It is the day of resurrection and new life after two days of hopelessness and despair (Lk 24:21). Your third day is just about to dawn! (Hos 6:1,2).

☐ *Promotion of God’s Cause*

Verse 11 capsulates the purpose of the miracle: “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested **His glory**; and His disciples believed in Him.” In a sense the disciples were already believers. Their faith was further strengthened and deepened by this incident. The greatest of all was that Jesus was glorified. Interestingly the second sign miracle of Jesus was also performed for a family (Jn 4:53,54). Families are God’s units on earth to promote His cause and accomplish His purposes. When God blesses a family, it is to bless the next family through it. The family circle is the supreme conductor of Christianity. Each Christian family has a God-given commission to bless the non-Christian families around it with the message of the Gospel.

MAY 9

PRAYER

Subject: Family

Reading: Jn 2:1-12

Memorising: Prov 8:32

Dear Father who is in Heaven,

We thank You for Your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. We thank You for bringing us as sons and daughters into Your family with Christ as our Elder Brother. We worship You for the amazing unity between You and Your Son and Your Spirit. Help us, O God, to experience such a unity among us, both in the Church and in our families.

Help us, O Father, to honour You in all that we do in our family, whether we eat or drink or whatever we do. Help us to have Christ as the Head of our home and not just a guest. Let the lifestyle of each member of our family be patterned after Your Son. May the Holy Spirit move freely in our home lest there be suffocation and tension. Let the Bible, Your Word, be the rulebook in our home. Let Christ feel at home in our family.

Father God, we pray for an atmosphere of love to prevail in our family so there may be mutual submission to one another. Fill us with self-giving and forgiving love. Grant us to live with mutual acceptance in spite of differences. We come against the devil who sows seeds of suspicion and mistrust in the hearts of our family members. Help us to love one another with our hearts knit like those of David and Jonathan.

Thank You, O God, for our parents and other old members in our family. Help us respect them. Forgive us for mistaking knowledge for wisdom, education for experience, and qualification for quality. Help us children not to think of ourselves beyond what we ought to think. Let us serve one another with love without comparison or competition.

Father God, we bring to You the unsolved problems and unmet needs in our family. Did not Your Son perform His first sign miracle for a family? We confess that nothing is too hard for You, Lord. We confess that it is never too late for You to perform a miracle. We worship You as the One who is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or think. We trust You and commit the future of each family member into Your hands. Let each of us be a tree of righteousness wherever we are planted and bear fruit for Your glory and the good of mankind.

In the Name of Jesus our Head and Elder Brother, Amen!

*(Eph 3:14,15,20; 5:21; Heb 2:10,11; 1 Cor 4:6; 10:31; Dt 6:7,8;
1 Sam 18:1,3; Job 12:12; Jer 32:27; Prov 17:6; Rom 12:3)*