

Rev. Derek Fairman

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time C (Faith)

On this second Sunday of Ordinary Time, we hear the account of the Wedding Feast at Cana. The Virgin Mary played an important role in the Lord's miracle of changing water into wine, and she played an important role in His whole work. The Virgin Mary is Virgin Daughter Zion because of her fidelity to the Lord.

In the account of the Wedding Feast at Cana, she told the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." This sums up her whole attitude of faith. She was completely obedient to the Lord, and she sought His will. Sometimes we carry out God's will, but we do so with some reluctance. The Virgin Mary wanted to know what God's will was in her regard, and she carried out that will with perfect obedience. She did not have her own will, but only sought God's will.

Mary's faith as Virgin Daughter Zion contrasted with the old Daughter Zion. The kings of Judah, the descendants of David, were not always faithful to the Lord. David had a heart that was always with the Lord, and did not worship other false gods. Some of the kings of Judah were good. The kings Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah stand out for their piety. But there were also kings who led the people astray.

The point is that as the kings of Judah, the descendants of David, looked to the Lord for help and did what was right, the people would follow them. As the kings of Judah would not follow the Lord, but make treaties with other nations and follow idols, the people would follow them into destructive policies. The city of Jerusalem could be said to be faithful or unfaithful, depending upon the kings and the people.

The prophet Isaiah realized that destruction would come to Jerusalem, if the kings, the people, and the city were unfaithful. In the first reading, Isaiah also foresaw Jerusalem's vindication and victory, that the Lord would not abandon the city. Even after so many problems, the Lord would come to her, and she would be faithfully obedient to the Lord again. This prophecy about Jerusalem would be fulfilled in the Virgin Mary.

The Virgin Mary is the one who leads others to always obey the Lord and trust in Him. She does not lead us astray nor does she give us bad examples. She imitates her ancestor Abraham in his obedient faith, and has an Immaculate Heart even better than King David and the good kings descended from him. She showed the servants that day the importance of following God's will, of doing whatever the Lord Jesus commanded them.

The Virgin Mary shines like a burning torch in the Church, and her fidelity to the Lord continues in the Church now. The Bride of Christ, the Church, faithfully carries on the work of the Lord Jesus, and remains true to the teachings that He has passed on to her. There is still the question, though, of each of us, the members of the Church. There are times whenever we find it difficult to remain faithful to the Lord, to trust in Him and to believe in Him.

There are the times whenever we have difficulty trusting in God. We have our own plans, and we seek to carry out those plans, and then God seems to interfere or somehow our plans do not happen the way that we want them to. We can get angry, because it seems like God does not want to let us do what we want. In those moments, we remember the Mother of God. She asked the Lord Jesus to help, and initially, He told His Mother that His hour had not yet come. Despite this, she trusted that her Son would help the young couple at their wedding banquet. The Lord did help the bride and groom, and He also helped His disciples to begin to believe in Him.

There are times whenever we have trouble understanding why God wants us to do things, or why He allows things to happen. We cannot see the bigger picture in this world as God sees it, and so it can be frustrating trying to understand God's ways. It can be difficult to carry out God's will if we do not see the logic behind His plan. Yet the Virgin Mary trusted that her Son would do what was best for everyone, even if she did not understand His initial response. The Mother of God knew the Lord Jesus well enough, that she knew that He would respond with kindness.

There are times whenever we do what God wants, so long as His will coincides with ours. In other words, if God wants world peace, and so do we, then we pray for peace. If what we want is not what God wants, we can follow our own will and ignore what the Lord asks of us. This is not the ideal attitude of a servant. What we find in the Virgin Mary is someone who acted upon God's will, in the manner He wanted, and *because* He willed it. The Virgin Mary gives us a model to follow, at the Wedding Feast at Cana.

As we approach the altar, we think about those things in our lives that make it difficult for us to do what God wants us to do. Could it be pride, or contempt? Could it be that we have no idea what it is like to not do whatever we want? In other words, putting someone else's needs before our own is something we are unaccustomed to doing. Whatever reason or reasons that exist for the difficulties, no doubt that the Mother of God teaches us what it means to serve others, what it means to have faith. Mary's great faith manifested itself in what she told the servants at the Wedding Feast at Cana, "Do whatever He tells you."