



**Do whatever
he tells you**

First week of the Lent

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Lent 2019



John 2: 1 - 11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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Meditation

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee.
On the third day, at the wedding, the wine was gone, and
the hour of Jesus has not yet come.

Between “the hour has not yet come” and “do whatever he
tells you”, the word of Mary to his only son:

“Be strong and rise... the hour came”.

So Jesus got up from the meal.

“Jesus got up from the meal” of the wedding at Cana, as he
did when he was having the last meal with his disciples.
He wrapped a towel around his waist. He came down with
the servants, as a servant for our humanity, changing our
water into wine of joy and resurrection.

For us, his brothers, the servants, Mary is saying: “be strong,
rise... and do whatever he tells you.”

Be strong, and rise... He is alive, He rose!

On the third day a wedding took place. God got up from the
meal! God rose from the dead.

Between the meal of Cana and the sacrifice on the cross,
there is a journey in the desert, the journey of the big lent, in
which Jesus passed by our leprosy, by our bleeding, by our
exile, by our paralysis and by our blindness.

Jesus is repeating to us the words of the resurrection:

Be strong and arise!

Let us be firm and walk with him along the way!

Sister Noura Khoury Hanna

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Texts for meditation

- Deuteronomy 31: 1 – 8 : “Be strong and courageous... the Lord your God goes with you”
- Psalm 27 : “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord”
- Isaiah 35: 1 – 10 : “Everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them”
- Daniel 10: 12 – 21 : “Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed... Peace! Be strong now; be strong”
- Revelation 19: 6 – 16 : “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready”

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Reading from the fathers of the Church

Come closer listeners, come and savour the sweet taste of our Lord's teachings, while giving proper thanks to God's grace as you should:
He who enriches all came to the world in poverty, to become the companion of the poor and to enrich them,
The Lord of heavens dwelt in this world like a stranger, to lead us, we who are lost, to His eternal kingdom,
The lion cub willingly became a lamb, became the sacrifice instead of the herd in order to liberate and save it,
The eagle amongst the birds, the sublime king bent his wing to gather the little chicks of Adam who were shattered.
Mary knew that there was no more wine, she knew that the time of the teaching has come.
Then the virgin sheep whispered to the lion cub: "Lord, they have no more wine".
Smartly Mary only said: There is no wine, but in her heart she was saying much more:
Show your power with miracles, reveal that you are the Son of God, the world is ready to know and to acknowledge you,
The great multitude will see your power and will believe in you, stop concealing your strength, reveal yourself!
You are the Son of God, show your strength and call all mankind to believe in you. To believe that you are God
Give a divine sign to this world.
You who enriches all, why do you live in poverty? Open your treasury and distribute your wealth amongst the needy,
Overflow your tenderness upon the bridegroom, whom you are sitting on his table, so that there will be no need in the house that invited you in.

Saint Jacob Of Sarug (Mamre 167)

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Psalm 68: 1-9

May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his
foes flee before him.

May you blow them away like smoke as wax melts before
the fire, may the wicked perish before God.

But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
may they be happy and joyful.

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who
rides on the clouds;

rejoice before him-his name is the Lord.

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

God sets the lonely in families,

he leads out the prisoners with singing;

but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

When you, God, went out before your people, when you
marched through the wilderness, the earth shook, the
heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.

You gave abundant showers, O God;
you refreshed your weary inheritance.