

The Story of a Wedding Feast

Not far away from Nazareth there lies a small town called Cana. Soon after His Baptism Jesus Christ and His mother and His friends, whom He called His disciples, were invited to go to a wedding in Cana.

A big feast was prepared in the bride's home in Cana. Many guests were gathered there. Many bright lights were burning and people were singing and rejoicing. There was good food to eat and good wine to drink.

It happened that in the middle of the feast there was not enough wine to go around. Perhaps the family was a poor one and had not expected so many guests. The mother of Jesus Christ, Mary, always noticed when people needed help. Before anyone else had noticed that something was wrong, Mary, knowing that her Son had power to do whatever He chose, said to Him quietly:

"My Son, they have no wine." Jesus answered: "My hour has not yet come."

But although Jesus did not say that He would help, Mary knew that He would do as she had asked. She went to the servants who were helping at the feast. She said to them: "Be sure to do everything that He tells you to do."

There stood at the entrance to the house six big water pots made of stone. They were usually filled with water. People used to wash their hands before meals and to bathe their feet before entering the house. They had to wash themselves because the country roads were hot and dusty, and people walked barefoot or wore sandals. Because of the wedding, there had been so many guests that the six water pots were empty.

Soon after His mother told Him this, Jesus spoke to the servants and said: "Fill the water pots with water." And the servants, remembering what Mary had said, did as Jesus told them. They brought water from the well and filled the big

stone pots up to the very brim. Then Jesus said: "Now draw some of the water and take it to the ruler of the feast." This person was always a friend of the bridegroom. His job was to take care of everything during the wedding feast. The servants did as Jesus told them and drew some water from the stone pots. But it was not water anymore. All the water had become wine.

When the ruler of the feast tasted the wine that the servants brought him, he found that this wine was very good. He went up to the bridegroom and said: "A man usually offers his guests his best wine at the beginning of the feast. When they have drunk enough, then he gives them wine that is less good. You have kept your best wine until now."

He did not know what had happened. Only the servants knew. Now that there was enough wine, the wedding feast went on happily as before.

This was the first time that Jesus Christ had used His power to help people. He did it because His mother wanted the people to be happy.