

On the sixth day there was a wedding in Eden. And the devil was there to make sure that the wine ran out. He was uninvited, yet he came anyway for his hour had come. It was his time. Time to ruin God's perfect wedding feast. The sweet wine of God's good creation the devil ruined. The sweet wine that Adam and Eve enjoyed with God, and with each other, the devil ruined. He caused the wine to run out by leading Adam and Eve into sin.

When the wine runs out, the wedding feast is over. It cannot continue unless the guests have wine to drink.

It was this way in Cana. This was a disaster for the bride and groom. Someone had messed up royally. They had not brought enough wine to the feast. Wine makes the spirit cheerful, the heart glad. Running out of wine, the guests would soon begin to grumble. The groom would be upset, and the bride would shed tears. This is not what any couple wants for their wedding feast.

And it is not what God wants for His creation, for all of His children. When the wine ran out in Eden, Adam and Eve were ashamed of themselves, fearful of God, and pointing the finger of blame at each other. "It's not my fault that the wine ran out," said the man, "it's her fault." "It's not my fault," said the woman, "it's the serpent's fault."

Who do we blame when the wine runs out? Because it always does at some point. The devil makes sure of it. He is the uninvited guest in every marriage, in every family, in every congregation. And just like he did in Eden, he causes the wine to run out for us. Relationships cool and sometimes they fail. Troubles come and they may multiply. And just like in Eden, there comes shame, fear, and blaming.

Now when the wine ran out at Cana's wedding feast, it most certainly was not the fault of Jesus. Mary could have blamed the servants or the master of the feast. But no, she simply turns to Jesus and hands it over to Him. She does not tell Him how to fix it. She simply says, "*They have no wine.*"

She is a model Christian. Full of faith, and our example in every way. Do we panic when the wine runs out? See how calm Mary remains. Do we place blame? See how Mary does not. Do we tell God what He must do? See Mary doing nothing but handing everything over to Jesus. She trusts Him. Even when His reply indicates that He will not help, she knows that He will. And so she says to the servants, "*Do whatever He tells you.*"

Now why, we wonder, does Jesus call her, His own mother, "*woman?*" "*Woman,*" He says, "*...My hour has not yet come.*" Is it not because He is the seed of the woman? "*I will put enmity,*" said God to the serpent in Eden, "*between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*" When Jesus calls His mother, "*woman,*" He is looking back to Eden when the wine first ran out. He is the Seed of the woman who will crush the head of Satan. Satan's hour was in Eden, but Jesus' hour would come on the cross of Golgotha. For there, the sweet wine of His own precious blood would be spilled for all sinners.

Do not fear, therefore, when the wine runs out; when troubles come, when illness overtakes you, when you feel shame, and fear, and guilt. Trust in Jesus. He who made water wine, fills the baptismal font with water for you, and the cup of Communion with the wine of His blood for you.

Whatever the devil takes away from you, Jesus replaces with something better. He will not allow the wedding feast to end. He fills your heart with gladness and your life with blessings.

At Cana the feast continued, and only because of Jesus. But no one knew. All the guests were glad to continue drinking wine at the feast, yet not one of them understood that apart from Jesus, the feast would soon have been over.

Satan thought that the wedding feast was over in Eden. But God intervened. Man's sinfulness would not end the feast. The Seed of the woman would come. He would take the blame for the wine running out. And so He did. Jesus' hour on the cross means that the wedding feast continues here in His banqueting house and will continue forever in heaven. Because He who was not to blame, took the blame, your blame and mine. He took the punishment of your sins and mine.

God, your God, does not blame you for the wine running out. Rather, for Jesus' sake, He forgives you. Yes, truly, He forgives every one of you.

And so the wedding feast goes on. Come to the feast here at the banqueting table. Jesus makes His cup to overflow with the wine of His grace. And it is for you. For the forgiveness of your sins. Amen.