



**Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 17, 2010**

**Message: Making Monday Marvelous: Friday = Miracle**

Burglar hears: Jesus is watching from parrot named Moses.

Named by same crazy people who would name a Rottweiler "Jesus."

Do you ever feel like Jesus is watching – why don't we seem to care?

People change their language when playing golf with a pastor.

Why don't we care more about what Jesus thinks?

We encounter Jesus this day doing his first miracle.

That should be of vital importance for setting a precedent.

What is important enough to Jesus that he would do a miracle?

Interestingly, it is making more wine for a wedding celebration.

Jesus doesn't bring someone back to life or even do a healing.

The wedding runs out of wine.

Mary tells Jesus he should do something about that.

Confident that he will, then she makes a directive to the servants.

"Do whatever he tells you."

The servants comply and Jesus fulfills Mary's desire.

As a result, Jesus is glorified.

And the disciples believe in Jesus.

I am captured by the process.

Jesus doesn't just decide to do a miracle.

He seems a bit reluctant since the need was small and the timing too soon.

Mary asks in faith of Jesus' abilities and compassion.

And he complies.

But not without further human cooperation.

The servants are necessary for the miracle to occur.

That says something to me about the role of God in our lives.

It speaks to the partnership that seems to be present between God and humans.

Those who think that God is not active in the everyday part of life are wrong.

And those who think God helps those who help themselves aren't right.

God is active where people look for Him to be active.

It is like Jesus saying: "You do not have because you do not ask."

Now there clearly is a danger in asking for things which are not God's desire.

But, on the other hand, there is a danger of assuming something is not God's desire.

How is one to know?

If you run out of wine at a party, should you pray for God to provide?

If you can't find a parking place, should you pray for God to provide?

Sure, why not?

Be assured that God will be doing good things.

The result might not look just like you intended.

Mary didn't know how Jesus would do the miracle.

But she was confident of his faithfulness to the expressed need.

God will do great things through your prayers.

And He may not do some great things without your prayers.

How do we know what God tells us? That is tricky.

We can and will be mistaken, but that doesn't seem to be a concern for God.

"Oh that you are either hot or cold, but not lukewarm."

I believe that the real problem is that we don't pray.

Count on and ask that the Holy Spirit would lead you in prayer.

And then go for it with bold courage and confidence.

What a strange request for Mary to make of Jesus – make wine please.

But she had the sense that that was what God's desire was.

And she was right; What if she hadn't made the request?

Would Jesus still have done the miracle?

I am convinced that this is a lesson we have forgotten in our culture.

Either we are so rational that we think God has no place...

Or we are reactionary and think that God is everywhere doing everything.

The reality seems to be this partnership between God and human.

Jesus is watching us.

He is waiting for us to pray in the ways he would have us pray.

And he is eager to respond with great miracles.

I will do whatever I believe Jesus tells me.

Think about that as a possible mission statement for one's life.

Our culture so wants God to bless our desires for our personal glory.

Notice that the miracles lifted up Jesus and led people to faith.

That is, it would seem, the reason for miracles.

God does miracles when he wants people to come to faith.

I read John to be saying that the issue was not that the people got more wine.

The issue is that Jesus was glorified and the disciples believed in him.

I think we need to keep that in mind as we frame our prayers for miracles.

How can we pray that God is glorified and people believe?

That, to me, is a great place to begin our prayer development.

It is Friday of the fiscal week of Making Monday Marvelous.

It is a day when we look forward to the weekend, but don't look past this moment.

Jesus wants to do miracles through you this very day.

Time is short, Monday is still several days away – so act now.

Pray with someone, be a Christian friend with someone.

Don't presume to know all the answers.

But listen with the ear of God, and then pray.

Jesus will do all the rest.

Today, the greatest miracles in your life are faith and the promise of eternal joy.

So what is the purpose of the miniscule time of earthly life?

It may be short, but it seems to be very important.

Today, be confident that God's Spirit speaks to you in all sorts of ways.

It may be prayer, the Bible, a voice, a feeling, the words of a friend.

Do something meaningful with life for the sake of Jesus.

Touch a life with the miraculous presence of God.