

Jesu Juva

“Jesus Will Provide”

Text: John 2:1-11 (Genesis 2:7, 18-24; Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33)

Dave and Jessica, you have been planning this day, your wedding day, for over a year now. The wedding day itself, the rehearsal, the reception; making plans for all who would be traveling, who would be invited, who would be a part of this day, and how - it is no small list, and no small task. You have also made plans for your life after this day, though it seems as if those plans keep changing! Life throws you curves, health problems and complications arise, and plans must change.

The couple who were married at Cana in Galilee had made a lot of plans and preparations as well. The wedding day came, and it seemed as if everything had come together and fallen into place . . . when they ran out of wine. Perhaps that doesn't seem like such a big deal to us, but it was to them. A very big deal. That the ceremony went off without a hitch, that the reception had been going well, that everyone seemed happy . . . all that would soon be forgotten. Theirs would be known as the wedding that ran out of wine; when everyone had to go home too soon and disappointed; the marriage that got started on the wrong foot.

You too, Dave and Jessica, are going to run out of wine. Oh, not at your reception, I know! But in your marriage. After this day of joy, there will be days when you are going to run short on patience with each other. There will be times when your will to forgive one another will run out, and your love will seem to run dry. Your service and submission to one another will be reluctant. *What will you do then?*

That is an important question to ask this day, and to plan for. To think that it won't happen to you is why so many marriages in our world today are on shaky ground and tragically end in divorce. And the water of this world's wisdom and self-help advice isn't going to cut it. You need more than that. You need Jesus.

Which is why you're here today, before your God and Saviour, to be married. And it is why Jesus is here at your wedding today, just as He was at that wedding in Cana. To provide you what you need: the wine of His love and forgiveness that will keep your marriage together. Marriage is easy in better, in health, and in richer; Jesus is here so that when the worse, the sickness, and the poorer come, they will not be the burdens that break your marriage, but the crosses that strengthen it.

For so it is with ***Christ and His Bride, the Church***. That is no marriage made in

heaven! But a marriage made on the cross. For look at the Bride that our Saviour has taken for Himself. A Church of sinners. From Adam, to Old Testament Israel, to all of us gathered here today - we are not true and faithful brides, but ones who have taken our robe of righteousness and soiled it with sin of every kind.

But our Saviour's love is great than our sin. And so in love, He leaves His Father in heaven and is made man. In love, He leaves His mother while on the cross and holds fast to His Bride, taking upon Himself her sins, laying down His life for her, and shedding His blood to cleanse her. And in so doing, keeping the vow He made in the Garden to rescue His Bride from the venom and sin of satan. It was a vow He made knowing full well what it meant - that it meant the cross.

And so that day in Cana, celebrating the wedding of friends, was perhaps a day when Jesus thought about the future and what He had come to do for His Bride. As He told His mother, ***My hour has not yet come.*** But His hour was coming. The hour of the cross, yes; but also His own ***third day***, when He would rise victorious from death and the grave and ascend into heaven to prepare a place for His Bride. A new creation than would surpass the first.

And so this day, as we gather to celebrate the wedding of our friends, our family, we look forward to the future as well - when Jesus is going to return; when He is coming for you and me, to take us to the wedding feast of heaven. The feast that will have no end. That is the future in which we can be certain. For Christ has done it - He is risen! - and has promised us a future. And in His Word we can have full confidence.

But we not only look to that future today, but to your future, as husband and wife. We pray today that it will be a long one, and a joyous one. But unlike Jesus, we don't know what the future holds. Today you are making vows to one another, important vows, and no small vows. To love and cherish and keep each other *no matter what*. But the "what" that is coming will challenge you. Jess, you will not always submit to Dave, and Dave, you will not always lay down your life for Jess. Your old sinful natures will get the better of you. They get the better of us all.

So today, your vows are important; but even more important are the promises of Jesus to you, and for you. For He is the one who never fails. And the one who today joins you together as one flesh, will Himself provide the forgiveness and love you will need each and every day of your marriage, through the living water of His Word and Spirit, and through the forgiveness and life of His Body and Blood that you receive in His Supper. For He has promised to do so. That joined by Him and joined to Him, your marriage truly be an icon of the Gospel. A picture of His love and forgiveness for the world.

And so Jesus will provide the wine for *your* marriage. All that you need. He will be what you cannot be and do what you cannot do and give to you what you need to give to one another, to strengthen you and your marriage until the day comes when, yes, death *does* part you. But even then, in Christ, we will look to the future and our own third day, when in the resurrection we will be united around the throne of God, and the *real* wedding feast begins. For just as Jesus is risen from the dead, so will we. And then there will be no "until death us do part," for death will finally be defeated, once and for all. And all the future will hold for us is the joy of being with our heavenly Bridegroom.

So Dave and Jessica, we rejoice with you this day, that your Saviour will do all this for you. We rejoice in the goodness of our Father and His Son, who has given you as gifts to one another. And we rejoice in the Spirit, who is working in you both, making today no fairy tale, but even better - making today a day of the Gospel. A day of our Lord's work for you, to bless you from the day forth and ever forevermore.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.