

Sermon for Epiphany 2C  
Sunday, January 16, 2022  
“Our hour has come”

Text: John 2:1-11

I speak to you in the name of the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Have you ever been to a comedy club or watched a comedian on TV? What makes the comedian so funny? It's timing. Timing of the story, timing of the set up, and timing of the punch line. Timing is everything. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John is the well known story of the Wedding at Cana, and it's all about timing.

The mother of Jesus, as John always refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Jesus are attending a wedding in the town of Cana and the wine has run out. This is not a trivial thing. On the third day of the grand celebration that would take place over several days, the wine has run out—a catastrophe for the host, because it implies his failure to show adequate preparation or proper hospitality. The mother of Jesus, being a proper lady, quickly recognizes the embarrassing situation that could result and asks Jesus to do something about it. She is well aware of who her son is and calls on him to correct the situation. Jesus, however, abruptly scolds her that her timing is off. It reminds me of a GEICO Insurance commercial from several years ago where a mother calls her son to chit chat while he is busy fighting some criminals. The punch line is, “Mothers always call at the wrong time. It's what they do.” Jesus says to her, “Woman!” (If I ever addressed my mother like that, she would knock me into another century!) “What concern is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come.” Jesus tells his mother that her timing is off. His moment of glory is not now, but at a future time. But as the story unfolds, he does comply and turns six jars of water (that's about 180 gallons) into wine—plenty of wine to last for the rest of the wedding. This is the first of the “signs” according to John that will demonstrate to the world who Jesus really is. His abrupt response that his hour had not yet come is a foreshadowing of the ultimate sign: his death on the cross, his resurrection, and the salvation of humanity. Did you catch that all this happened on the third day?

The sign that will play out over and over again in John's Gospel is that whenever there is a need, Jesus shows up. He shows up to heal the sick, he shows up to raise the dead, he shows up to aid the marginalized, he shows up to welcome the stranger, he even shows up on the cross to save humanity. Scripture tells us that when he shows up anything is possible.

The message for us today is that in the course of life's journey, God shows up. He shows up in our ups and downs, in good times and bad, times happy and sad, in times of poverty, in times of wealth and abundance, in times of gain and in times of loss, in times of pandemic and in seasons of good health. Whenever we need God, all

we need to do is call on him and he will show up. And when he does, all things are possible.

If you're going through a rough time right now, or even if things are going pretty well, take comfort in this beautiful Epiphanytide message that God is in our midst and he will show up just when we need him. Even when things don't turn out the way we wanted or expected, God is still with us, constantly putting new possibilities in front of us, if we would just pray that he will open our eyes to see them. If we think our hour has not yet come, God's hour is always right now. He may not come when you want him, but God is always on time, breaking open the possibilities for us. Amen.

### Resource

“Learning to tell time,” by David Lose in *The Working Preacher*,  
<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1770>