



Jan. 20, 2019 Jn. 2: 2-12 & Is. 62: 1-5

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

In Jesus' day there was a "science" called numerology. This is the belief that certain numbers indicate qualities over and above quantities. Three signaled completion. Thirty would share that same feeling. Six implied incompleteness. So we have three days, thirty years and six jars. Reading between the lines we are sensing that John invites us to know, maybe even before Jesus appeared to know, that his time has indeed come. In introducing 6 jars we find John implying that Jesus will bring to completion the beginning of salvation history: the heavenly banquet so often spoken of in his Hebrew scriptures. Now we, like the servants who were the only ones who knew what really happened that day, carry this "secret" in our hearts. Did you ever wonder what they did with this "inside knowledge"? What are you doing with it today?

Jn. 2:1-12

1 On the **third day** a wedding took place at **Cana** in Galilee. Jesus' **mother** was there, 2 and Jesus and his **disciples** had also been invited to the **wedding**. 3 When the **wine** was gone, Jesus' **mother** said to him, "They have no more **wine**." 4 Dear **woman**, why do you **involve** me?" Jesus replied. "My **time** has not yet come." 5 His **mother** said to the **servants**, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Nearby stood six **stone water jars**, the kind used by the Jews for **ceremonial washing**, each holding from **twenty to thirty gallons**. 7 Jesus said to the **servants**, "Fill the **jars** with **water**"; so they filled them to the **brim**. 8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the **master** of the banquet." They did so, 9 and the **master** of the banquet tasted the **water** that had been turned into **wine**. He did not realize where it had come from, though the **servants** who had drawn the **water** knew. Then he called the **bridegroom** aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice **wine** first and then the cheaper **wine** after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have **saved the best** till now." 11 This, the first of his **miraculous signs**, Jesus performed at **Cana** in Galilee. He thus **revealed** his glory, and his **disciples** put their faith in him. 12 After this he went down to **Capernaum** with his **mother** and brothers and his **disciples**. There they stayed for a few days.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Mary's compassion for the wedding couple brings forth a miracle from God through Jesus. Can my compassion have this same effect?

PRAYER: Gracious God, all throughout scriptural history humanity has imaged its final and everlasting time in your presence as a grand celebration where nothing ever runs out. John brings this hope into being at the very beginning of his words for me. May these words inspire me and gladden me as it did the wedding couple and their guests that day. Then I can delight with them in what you are doing in my life. Amen.