

ST. MARY

THE LESSON: JOHN 2

St. Mary was very young when an angel appeared to her and told her she was to become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to Jesus, the promised Messiah. She was frightened, but her response was that of trusting obedience: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word” (Luke 1:38).

Scripture is filled with both positive and negative examples for us. Remember Adam and Eve? Their circumstances were idyllic and they were given just one rule, but they were persuaded to set aside obedience – with disastrous consequences. St. Mary and her fiancé St. Joseph did just the opposite. In challenging circumstances, they trusted in God and followed where he led.

Living in faithful obedience to God is rarely easy! In fact, often the “nudgers”, “persuaders” and “influencers” of our world are pointing us in the opposite direction. But this is when we must set our sights on better role models, like St. Mary, who understood firsthand the goodness, power and trustworthiness of God.

The Gospel of St. John tells us about Jesus’ first miracle at a wedding in a place called Cana. St. Mary was there. As we read the Gospel account, pay special attention to the way in which she points to Jesus, and the words, “Do whatever *he* tells you”.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Spend some time reflecting on the words “Do whatever he tells you”, listening for God’s direction. Taking St. Mary as a role model, spend some time asking God to show you how *your* life – your words and actions – can point to Jesus more.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through one or both of the following collects.

O God Most High, who didst endue with wonderful virtue and grace the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord: Grant that we, who now call her blessed, may be made very members of the heavenly family of him who was pleased to be called the first-born among many brethren; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen. (SUPPLEMENTARY COLLECT OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PAGE 309)

O God Most High, who from the family of thy servant David didst raise up Joseph the carpenter to be protector of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord: Grant that we may so labour in our earthly vocations, that they may become labours of love and service offered unto thee, our Father; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (SUPPLEMENTARY COLLECT OF JOSEPH OF NAZARETH, PAGE 319)

ST. MARY

JOHN 2: **DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU**

¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.