**“Manifested”**

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

 Epiphany 2, Jan. 15/16, 2022

“This, the first of His **signs**, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and **manifested His glory**. And **His disciples believed in Him**.”

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bridge**

**Jesus** **manifested the glory that’s His as the Son of God, turning vast amounts of water into the choicest of wine** … and **disciples manifested faith**. What a wonderful **complimentary relationship** it is when **those two things occur (both of them): the manifestation of the glory of God and disciples’ reaction to it in belief**.

“Manifesting” is the “**making of things evident**” **… the** “**demonstration**” **of a fact**. Jesus’ glory got displayed as the **natural extension of His** **divinity**, **expressed automatically by Him then because of Who and how He is**. Why wouldn’t He be able to do the things that He did any time it made eternal sense to do it. Disciples’ faith shows itself (manifests itself), and that **reactively to Jesus** (from what He did and does which Spirit makes our reaction one of just Good reflex. That, too, proclaims God’s glory, show by believers **for an eternal purpose: people noting God’s glory by disciples’ reaction of homage and duty to Him**.

All important because Epiphany is the **season** noting (especially) the manifestations (or signs) of **God’s glory in Christ Jesus**, with then the manifestations (or signs) of **that same glory of God in Christ through believers**. People united to Christ Jesus through baptism **TAKES LEGS AND MOVE by the Holy Spirit. Believers get noticed reacting to Jesus and what He does** …

**Text**

… which is what John’s Gospel is **all about that**. We won’t always hear from him this Church Year, but the Second Sunday of Epiphany has always had us **hearing from him** … and that because he addresses (in a proof format) the factuality of Who Jesus was, so what He could do and did and does. For us coming off of Christmas **wanting evidence for the child we celebrated**, we’re given it at His baptism’s Father **saying it to those at it and what He did to present Himself in His ministry**. A dove anointed Him, then believers started to gather around Him and the fact that He was what God had promised in a **Savior worthy of that task by His own sacrifice** had finally arrived to do it. Matthew, Mark, and Luke told what Jesus did and had to say historically, but John made sure (as the last of the writers) that no one missed **Who** **Jesus was (God Himself) doing God’s work to save us as He alone could** …

… so he **unpacked that, making the case** (**for divine intervention) to anyone bothering to listen**. He started with this: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and **we’ve beheld the manifestation of His glory**, glory **as of** the only Son from the Father, made flesh, and **providing (for people) the right to become children of God (believers)**, not born of a life **just** flesh and blood, but **of God, believing through His Son**”.

John **presented** the **manifestations** (the **signs of His divinity while yet flesh**) and then concluded His entire account of them with these words: “There are **also many other signs that Jesus did**, and were every one of them to be written, the world itself could not contain the books. But the ones that **have been written have be written so that** **you** **may react to them, believing** **that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name**.”

The first “sign” was practically arm-twisted out of Him by His mother, but OK by the Father’s will and to His glory. Jesus’ mom **expected this one of Him** and **He chose to deliver to honor His heavenly Father**. Mary said “**Do whatever He tells you**” and I’d have to say that no better counsel is given anyone than hers: “do whatever Jesus tells you” and, that way, **manifest Him by doing what He says**.

Our middle lesson begins: “Concerning **spiritual gifts**” and **Paul** unpacks the glory of God as it’s **manifested in believers**: “To each believer **IS GIVEN** the **manifestation of the Spirit of God for the common Good**.” What’s shown (or manifested) in Jesus’ first (official) “sign” is what John 2 recounts. What’s shown (or manifested”) **by disciples responding to Jesus’ miraculous “sign” is the what the last sentence recounts:** “And **His disciples believed in Him**”. Paul says: “There are varieties of gifts and service and activities **manifested for common Good**” but they’re all of the “**same** Spirit” and “**same** Lord”, of the “**same** God empowering them all in **everyone believing in Jesus, reacting to Him**. So “wisdom, knowledge, unwavering trust, miraculous activities among the brethren, discernment, understanding and even interpretation” vary, and yet all **react to the manifestation, FIRST, of the GLORY OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS, BELIEVING HIM and DOING WHAT HE SAYS, which breeds everything else, reflecting Him and His glory as of the “only Son from the Father”.**

## Application

Probably **more significant than anything else** in Jesus’ first official manifested “sign” is the **quality and abundance shone in it**. 150+ gallons of the **choicest wine** Jesus made from **just water connected to His Word** (**more than that wedding festival needed** nor consume during its event).

We have what seems to be an overwhelming event of (now going on) 2 years of **Covid issues**. **Seems like** there is an abundance and intensity of something that humans can’t do much about, so we’re (all of us) floundering miserably speculating and guessing (even leaders of healthcare of this and all other nations).

Of the **wedding event**, one might have imagined God’s Son not concerning Himself with **refreshments** and yet **made of even that** **what He could … and what He chose to. To the Father’s glory**, we know what Jesus is doing with Covid by what **He’s** **made it** **NOT BECOME**. So far, He’s **healed from its disease** 99 and less than 2/100ths of those having fallen to it (**curing where it’s, mostly, stymied medical professionals** **309 Billion of the 315 Billion having been infected by this** **killer**). **Divine quality of care** by **being almost all that has worked to make this less than what it could be God in Christ has manifested to us in abundance and quality**. **I’m** thankful, especially, to have **beheld God’s divine healing of Pastor Craig against some odds**.

The Lord **holds a vast amount of pain and evil at bay**, **MOST** **not afflicting humanity as it could**. The fact that we have pleasure in this fallen world at all, **THAT** is the **miraculous manifestation of the glory of God in our day … and it is abundant**.

And the more that we **behold of the divine Jesus care**, the more that will **believe in it, with it benefitting all around us and through us as well**. May we **stay peeled** **for** **God’s divine** **epiphanies**. And, in **noticing them all**, reflect them in **faith,** **blessing,** and **usefulness**.

In +Jesus’ name. Amen.