

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday after the Epiphany – January 16, 2022

“And his disciples believed in him.” (John 2:11)

Jesus constantly reveals himself to us. Sometimes revelation comes in a way that is clear and direct. At other times, we receive only hints, suggestions, or subtle indications God is near and God is here for us. These “epiphanies” are rare and odd, but they are wonderful because they give us a glimpse into something deep and mysterious. An epiphany is a manifestation of God.

In this reading, we’re at a wedding. Not at the actual marriage ceremony but at the after-party. Jesus, his disciples, and mother are there. “They have no wine,” Jesus’s mother says to him. “Woman, what does that have to do with me? It’s not our party.” Even though it’s the wrong time and the wrong place, 180 gallons of water are transformed into the very best wine without Jesus even speaking!

Jesus’s disciples saw “glory” and “believed in him” (vs. 11.) What did they believe? What was the glory they saw? John gives us no explanation.

Maybe that’s the way it is with these unexpected epiphanies. Explanation is beside the point. We’ve had some mystical, undeniable, but still inexplicable experience. We know that somehow the veil has been pulled back. We have been given a vision, maybe just a glimpse, of something going on beneath, some strange but wonderful presence breaking in among us, an epiphany.

These mystical, strange, visionary experiences are not an argument that Jesus is God’s Son. Perhaps they are pointing us to believe that something more is going on with Jesus than just meets the eye.

We should not base our whole faith on these epiphanies. Perhaps God gives us these unexpected, inexplicable moments in order to push us toward faith. Maybe to get us thinking or moving us while the Holy Spirit takes our experience and transforms US into believing.

Hopefully you have been given an epiphany by God. If you haven’t, my bet is that you will. And when that veil is pulled back, when you are given a peek, a glimpse into the eternal, enjoy it, delight in that unexpected and undeserved gift.

Jesus shows up at a wedding party, or at your job, or your classroom, or while doing the dinner dishes. Hold on to your hat! You may experience some glory. You might walk away saying, “I believe.”

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday after the Epiphany – January 16, 2022

“And his disciples believed in him.” (John 2:11)

Jesus constantly reveals himself to us. Sometimes revelation comes in a way that is clear and direct. At other times, we receive only hints, suggestions, or subtle indications God is near and God is here for us. These “epiphanies” are rare and odd, but they are wonderful because they give us a glimpse into something deep and mysterious. An epiphany is a manifestation of God.

In this reading, we’re at a wedding. Not at the actual marriage ceremony but at the after-party. Jesus, his disciples, and mother are there. “They have no wine,” Jesus’s mother says to him. “Woman, what does that have to do with me? It’s not our party.” Even though it’s the wrong time and the wrong place, 180 gallons of water are transformed into the very best wine without Jesus even speaking!

Jesus’s disciples saw “glory” and “believed in him” (vs. 11.) What did they believe? What was the glory they saw? John gives us no explanation.

Maybe that’s the way it is with these unexpected epiphanies. Explanation is beside the point. We’ve had some mystical, undeniable, but still inexplicable experience. We know that somehow the veil has been pulled back. We have been given a vision, maybe just a glimpse, of something going on beneath, some strange but wonderful presence breaking in among us, an epiphany.

These mystical, strange, visionary experiences are not an argument that Jesus is God’s Son. Perhaps they are pointing us to believe that something more is going on with Jesus than just meets the eye.

We should not base our whole faith on these epiphanies. Perhaps God gives us these unexpected, inexplicable moments in order to push us toward faith. Maybe to get us thinking or moving us while the Holy Spirit takes our experience and transforms US into believing.

Hopefully you have been given an epiphany by God. If you haven’t, my bet is that you will. And when that veil is pulled back, when you are given a peek, a glimpse into the eternal, enjoy it, delight in that unexpected and undeserved gift.

Jesus shows up at a wedding party, or at your job, or your classroom, or while doing the dinner dishes. Hold on to your hat! You may experience some glory. You might walk away saying, “I believe.”