

Sunday Sermon 19 January 1964 Summary

If 1964 is to be a happy year then we must go with Jesus and Mary into the heart of the Father. A great aim but difficult to achieve. If we ask St. Paul how to go to the Father in Jesus he gives us many different answers. One is theoretical, the other practical.

Practical answer: Whatever you do, do it in the name of the Lord and thank the Father in heaven. Not be who says: Lord, Lord loves me, but be who does the will of my Father in heaven. What does that mean: to do everything in the name of the Lord? The apostle tells us on another occasion: Not I live but Christ lives in me. To do everything in the name of Christ means to do his wish and will. Christ lives, loves, suffers, eats, drinks in me. Me lives and works in me with his spirit of loving obedience - not only in his public but also in his bidden life.

Our Lord lived for 30 years in obedience to his parent. This shows the value and the properties of obedience. Today's Gospel takes up the thread of what we have been considering these last weeks obedience under a new aspect. If we want to follow him it reminds us of the wedding at Cana in which Our Lord and Our Lady play a leading role. He had only left his home when he was 30 years. How much we have done in 30 years, but Christ only left the obscurity of his hidden life after 30 years.

The Wedding feast at Cana. The relationship between Jesus and his Mother reveals a certain coldness. "What have I to do with this affair?" He does not even call her Mother; the childlike relationship matures into the higher obedience to the Father. She is the great woman promised in paradise, and described in the apocalypse.

The reason for the cool answer: "My hour has not yet come." The Father in heaven does not want it. He does not want us to deepen our intimate relationship.

Which hour is meant? The hour of crucifixion when you have to stand with me. For this you must be prepared. Simeon warned her - so she thought: now it is so far. But Jesus said: No - it is not so for yet."

Then she said the last words which appear of her in the Gospel.

Reserved from his Mother, she had to protect his miraculous birth. If she had been in the foreground his childhood could not remain a mystery.

At the cross she was again with him. -The hour of my public manifestation has not yet come. Yet he fulfils her wish.

Mary was confident that he would answer her wish. It was the plan of God that he should work the miracle if Mary would ask for it.

A praise of the importance of prayer.

A praise of the meditation of Mary.

Our prayer is built into the plan of redemption. “Knock and it will be opened, ask and you shall receive.”

Mary speeded up the miracles of Christ’s public life. – We hinder God’s plan because of lack of confidence and faith. We must believe in the love of the Father. Exchange of hearts between Father and child! Surrender completely to the will of God.

It Is very practical for us • Our Lady says for us: “They have no wine”, not only material things but especially spiritual things: e.g. faith, spirit of sacrifice, the art of education, obedience, childlike obedience, a.s.o.

Value of obedience for us modern man! How can we educate ourselves towards obedience?

We ask Our Lord to give us the wine of true obedience which makes us happy and free.