

INTRO – We are on a run –
a series of Epiphanies where God reveals Himself to us in new dramatic ways
2wks ago – Epiphany – Wise Men – AHA (1st Epiphany)
last week – Baptism of Jesus 'This is my beloved son in whom ...' (2nd Epiphany)
this week – Wedding at Cana – AHA - (3rd Epiphany)
God reveals Himself to us – BECAUSE we are His beloved He wants us to know Him
LUP

ISAIAH – God is in love with Israel – His chosen people
But that relationship has gone dry –
The Prophet sees a marriage that is desolate and God's going to restore it
READ IT

Prophet says 'for Jerusalem's sake I won't be quiet any more
Here's the Word of the LORD:
Nations shall behold your vindication –
You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord –
No more shall you be called Forsaken or Desolate but MY DELIGHT
Why can't we claim that promise?
We are the image and likeness of God – We are His creation
The Son of God suffered and died for US
The world looks upon us as forsaken – desolate NOT ANY MORE
WHY? Last paragraph:
The Lord delights in YOU – As a bridegroom rejoices in bride
So shall Your God rejoice in YOU
This is truth – we are redeemed, renewed, forgiven – Your God shall rejoice in YOU

THUS – PS 96 - “Proclaim His marvelous deeds to all the nations”
What are His marvelous deeds? YOU ARE
So “Proclaim His marvelous deeds to the NSJ” READ IT

That is the way we can take scripture and apply it to our lives – make it real – IT IS

COR – Paul describes the diversity we share in our Church –
We are all blessed – but uniquely blessed in different ways, rejoice! READ IT

GOSPEL – The pearl in this Gospel is in what Mary does

- Mary does 3 things
 - i. She sees the need COMPASSION
 - ii. She brings it to Jesus INTERCESSION
 - iii. Confident that He'll fix it CONFIDENCE
- Compassion of Mary
 - Mary sees the need – (don't we all) but she does something.
 - How many of us worry over X, do we pray about it?
 - Mary goes to Jesus.
- Intercession of Mary
 - Mary takes the need to Jesus
 - Intercedes – Mary Mediatrix.
 - We *can* go to Jesus, to God – but Mary & Saints can intercede
 1. Jesus hadn't intended to change the wine
 2. When Mary made the request, Jesus changed his plans
 3. US TOO – Seek & you will find, ask & it will be given
 4. We can make a difference in prayer
 - a. Intercessory Prayer is a powerful resource.
- Confidence of Mary
 - “Do whatever he tells you” (Mary's last words in scripture)
 - She walks away, doesn't look back, confident in whatever he'll do
 1. Key point – if we ask God's help we can't complain HOW
She didn't know how - Be confident that God *will* act.

2. Pattern for us

- Compassion – to see the needs around us (not the want)
- Intercession – pray for those we love (use Mary & Saints)
- Confidence – God will meet the need, however God deems best