

Chapter 12: Jesus Elevates the Dignity of Marriage

Jesus makes married couples a sign of the love between Himself and the Church through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Chapter Summary

At the Wedding Feast at Cana, Jesus changed water into wine through the intercession of Mary, His Mother. She told the servants and she tells us to “do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5). Jesus’ actions at the Wedding Feast at Cana not only confirm the goodness of marriage but also reveal that marriage will be a sacrament. Through the Sacrament of Matrimony, husband and wife become a physical sign of Christ’s love for the Church. Just as Jesus gave His life for the Church, spouses should sacrifice themselves in daily life out of love for each other. Similarly, those who are truly friends want and choose to do what is good for the other. Perfect friends, however, are alike in character and love each other because of their virtue.

Jesus Can Heal the Wounds in Family Life

Referring to her Son, Mary commanded the servants at the Wedding Feast at Cana to “do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5). This profound statement can be applied to family life, particularly in reference to common wounds that occur within families.

Our sins cause wounds, some of which can last for years. Through His words and actions, Jesus taught us how to respond to these situations so that we can gain lasting peace and spiritual healing from God’s grace.

In the next few Family Faith pages, your family will learn strategies for dealing with the most common sources of wounds in family life. Here is an outline of Jesus’ words and actions pertaining to some common family wounds:

When we are angry with a family member	Jesus cleansed the Temple with righteous anger (see John 2:13–16).	Jesus taught us that anger is not always sinful. Our anger must be directed to drawing someone away from sin, not out of hatred toward her.
When a family member struggles with doubt or leaves the Church	Jesus asked His Apostles if they, too, would leave when many other disciples left out of doubt and unbelief about the Eucharist (see John 6:66–69).	When others walked away from Him, Jesus focused on equipping His Apostles to become witnesses of the truth. We are called to focus on our witness through word and action when those around us succumb to doubt and unbelief.
When we must show mercy and forgiveness to those who hurt us	Jesus healed the ten lepers even though only one expressed gratitude (see Luke 17:11–19).	Jesus showed us that mercy is extended to those who hurt us, even if they do not acknowledge it or are not grateful for it.
When we experience suffering and death in our family	Jesus sent His Apostles to heal and strengthen those who were suffering (see Mark 6:7–13).	Jesus sent His Apostles to accompany those who were suffering and dying. We do what is best for those who are suffering by encouraging them to remain close to the Church, which continues this mission.

For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.