

**2 OTC.19;** Is 62:1-5; 1Cor 12:4-11; John 2:1-11; *The Wine of Cana*

Years ago when Johnny Carson was the host of *The Tonight Show* he interviewed an 8 year old boy. The young man was asked to appear because *he had rescued two friends in a coalmine outside his hometown in West Virginia*. As Johnny questioned the boy, it became apparent to him and the audience that the young man was very devout. So Johnny asked him if he attended Sunday school.

When the boy said he did Johnny inquired, "*What are you learning in Sunday school?*" **"Last week,"** came his reply, **"our lesson was about when Jesus**

**... went to a wedding and turned water into wine."**

The audience roared, but Johnny tried to keep a straight face. Then he said, **"And what did you learn from that story?"** The boy squirmed in his chair. It was apparent he hadn't thought about this. But then he lifted up his face and said,

**"If you're going to have a wedding, make sure you invite Jesus!"**

**The little boy was on to something!!!**

(Adapted; sermons.com/Today Make Sure You Invite Jesus/Blair)

**Let's explore this a little deeper....**

Someone once said, "*There's nothing worth doing that isn't worth overdoing!*"

**Yes, I just said that, but wait a minute....**

Scripture scholar *Silvano Fausti* says that this expression echoes the first Sign of Jesus in *the Gospel according to John*, the changing of water into wine. Fausti says that this story, "*tries to show us in one fell swoop how scandalously distinct God*

*... is from what we would imagine."*

In other words we need to expect **EXTRAVAGANCE** from our God.

**Does any wedding really need 600 liters/ 158.5 gallons of wine!**

**We have a much deeper “reality” being illustrated here....** (Source:

\**Celebration*, 01/19)

***This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.*** Mk1:15

In John's Gospel this is the *Inaugural Event* of the mission of Jesus. **The Reality of his Mission is being set before our eyes & it signifies God's intervention**

**... into human history through Jesus.**

Obviously this is not simply a story about a wedding. The gospel pays almost no attention to the bride and groom because this is a story about God's relationship with humanity, with all of us. **“The Sign” of water into wine is a living parable.**

\*This wedding is a lifeless liturgy. Then the mother of Jesus enters as the representative of Israel's hope, as Israel's potential to give life. She protests,

**“They have no wine.”** A wedding without wine is a liturgy without passion; it is a sacrilege. Jesus responds to her request, **“Woman how does your concern affect me?”** Unperturbed, Mary simply tells the servers, **“Do whatever he tells you.”**

Curiously, Jesus still has six empty stone jars, holding 20 to 30 gallon each, **filled to the brim with water.** He then tells the servers, **“Draw some out now and take it to the head waiter.** The head waiter, who is probably sick with worry for 2 the wedding couple, is astounded, **“....you have kept the good wine until now.”**

What an unexpected JOY that came in to the world of a newly married couple!

What does this say to us in 2019?

**Let's remember that the Mission of Jesus is to do the will of the Father.**

**My friends, God is interested in all that we do ....**

Today's readings speak of God's love and compassion. A marriage theme runs through them, illustrating *the essence* of God's caring - the persistence with which God woos us and the richness of God's gifts to us. **A marriage speaks of a covenant relationship, a partnership for life.** Isaiah affirms God's steadfast commitment. We are not destined to be ***forsaken or desolate***, but to be a source of ***delight*** to God, who calls us into an intimate relationship. God will not rest until our hearts are won over. Isaiah tells us that ***as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride,***

***... so shall your God rejoice in you.***

Let us take note, that Jesus helping the couple at the wedding ***is*** the Father's will,

***is*** making the kingdom known. And, known for the joy it brings! Jesus will continue bring that *joy-filled kingdom* into our lives - through us in *good times and in challenging times*. Jesus' love and generosity are boundless. He gives his entire being to us in the Eucharistic bread and wine, nourishing us extravagantly!

**This is the wedding *feast of the Lamb* that we are celebrating right now.**

**Hear the reason why Jesus is so generous ....**

I think St. Irenaeus said it best: "*The glory of God is a human being fully alive;*

***... and a human being fully alive lives in God.***"

And, we are expected to share the "wine of Cana". Mary's words echo down the years, "***Do whatever he tells you***". And Jesus says to us,

***"This is my commandment: love one another even as I love you."*** John

We live in the real world of wonders and crises, yet we also live in God's dream of a faith-filled vision of a new, better future. A future that will only come about if and when people are willing to co-create it with the Spirit. Paul says, "***To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit***" ... for us all.

What is your gift? Are you sharing that gift? The ***wine of Cana*** still flows!

Here is the delight of God, that we share responsibility for transforming our world.

**Notice this: we are RESPONSE- ABLE!**

**And ....**

If you think you are too small to make a difference, you have never spent the night in a tent with a mosquito. - Anonymous

**At this Liturgy of *the Wine of Cana***, this celebration of God's delight in us, a question arises that is woven into the gospel, will you share the Wine of Cana?

January