



Daily Reflections

January 20, 2019

Scripture

John.2: 1-12

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him,
"They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her,
"Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers,
"Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus told the them,
"Fill the jars with water."

So they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them,
"Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter."

So they took it.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from

— although the servers who had drawn the water knew —,

the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,
"Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now."
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him.

Our Scripture Reflection

St. John records the fewest number of miracles when compared to the other Gospel authors. Only seven. And, St. John uses a technical, Greek word to describe the miracle not used by the other writers. That word is "simeon", which literally means, "sign". Why? Because St. John is concerned with his readers not just marveling at the mighty works of Jesus, but also, the meaning underneath the miracles. St. John is challenging his reader to ask: "What is Jesus wanting me to learn by this miracle?" Today's Gospel reading contains Jesus' very first sign. At the wedding feast at Cana, He turns water into wine, and not just any kind of wine....He creates the BEST of wines to the amazement of the witnesses. So, what's the meaning of His sign?

1. In St. John's Gospel, Jesus replaces the established traditions and meanings with His very Presence and His new way. His production of an abundance of wonderful new wine will foreshadow the time on Calvary when He will shed His precious blood. And, He will one day give us His blood to drink.

2. The emphasis on the abundance of new wine produced by Jesus is a reminder that when God gives, He always gives the best and in abundance.

Food for your Journey

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something ... to go wrong! Really, couples ought to update that traditional list of wedding essentials: because, whether or not they make the revision, something is most emphatically bound to go wrong.

It has to. It's the law of averages. With so many details, and so many people involved -- some of whom barely know each other -- it's inevitable that something (or someone) will be forgotten, neglected, backwards or late.

Always there's that slip-up, that mishap, that stumbling over words (or over something more substantial).

Not to worry. Chances are excellent that the very thing that goes wrong will turn out, years in the future, to become the centerpiece of the couple's favorite wedding story.

At the marriage at Cana, something does go wrong. Only this is no minor faux pas. According to the customs of the day, it's a social disaster.

The wine runs out. Don't the rabbis teach that "without wine, there is no joy?" And is it not true that, at a wedding, the sacred laws of hospitality are especially precious?

Crestfallen, the bride's parents regard each other in dismay. The bride looks over at them, too, tears flooding her eyes. Then she looks to her new husband, who's turning red with embarrassment. His eyes won't even meet hers. The whispering has already started: "They have no wine."

Then, across the room, two mothers' eyes meet: the desperate mother of the bride and Mary, mother of Jesus. In that instant, Mary knows what she has to do.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You came into this world to bring the gift of new and eternal life. Help me to grow beyond my complacency and to seek the new life You offer in abundance. May I die to my old self so that I may rise as a new person in You. Amen