

Living the Word

MEDITATING ON THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Year C - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A resource for personal, family and community prayer.

“Do whatever he tells you.”

Gospel: John 2: 1-11

You are invited to read the Gospel passage attentively, respectfully and reverently as a gift of God.

¹There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. ³When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴Jesus said, “Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water;” and they filled them to the brim. ⁸“Draw some out now;” he told them, “and take it to the steward.” ⁹They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said, “People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.”

¹¹This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his

glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Background to Gospel passage

Where does it happen? It happens at Cana in Galilee. At that time Cana was a small village about 7 kilometres north-east of Nazareth.

When does it happen? In John’s Gospel this passage follows on from Jesus’ calling of the first disciples. The occasion is a wedding feast. Mary, Jesus and his disciples have been invited.

Who is there? Mary, the mother of Jesus - Mary is not referred to by name in John’s Gospel.

Jesus and his disciples, servants and the steward (the one who had responsibility for the organization of the wedding). The bridegroom - the one who is given credit for the quality of the wine.

What happens? Mary perceives that a crisis is looming as the wine is about to run out and she approaches her son for help. The involvement of Jesus transforms the ordinary water into a colourful, rich, full-bodied wine – a source of new joy, energy and vitality for all present. This is the first of many signs given by Jesus that unveil the power and glory of God at work in him.

Suggested Guidelines to help you recognise this passage in your life experience.

“They have no wine”

Can you enter into the passage by remembering a Mary person who showed compassion and sensitivity to the needs of others?

“Do whatever he tells you.”

Remember and celebrate people who recognize the potential in us, challenging us and yet leaving us free.

“the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine.”

Can you remember a new relationship or

involvement in new ventures or new leadership that were truly transformative in your life, filling you with hope, empowering you to grow, blossom and realise your full potential?

“There was a wedding”

Can you remember a special occasion, perhaps a wedding feast, a Eucharistic celebration, a pilgrimage or a family gathering when you were filled with an overwhelming experience of abundance, joy, togetherness and a longing that it would last forever?

What does this gospel remind me of? *Where was it? When was it? Who was there? What happened?*

Now I can see that God’s loving presence and action was in that life experience.

Prayer Response - you are invited to respond in prayer in your own words.

Heavenly Father, I thank you for the times when I have experienced this gospel in my life...

Heavenly Father, I am sorry for the times I have fallen short of living this gospel...

Heavenly Father, please help me to live this gospel...



You are invited to deepen this prayer experience by resting your heart silently in God's presence and love. The quiet repetition of a word or phrase from the passage may help you on this journey to stillness and silence.

An Invitation to Reflect

What new insight has the Gospel opened my eyes to see?

Action

This week I will try to live the Gospel by...

Thought for the week

A loving relationship can transform the ordinary, everyday and familiar into the extraordinary, wonderful and miraculous.

Rest in this truth, hold it in prayer and trust that it will bear fruit in your life.

Children



Jesus is at the wedding of a young couple and the wine runs out. Mary encourages Jesus to perform his first miracle. Jesus turns the water into wine and his friends believe that He is the Son of God.

Can you think of a 'Mary person', maybe a parent or grandparent, who encouraged you to be confident in sharing your talents with others?

Draw or write about this 'Mary person' and how they encouraged you to share your talents.



Father, I thank you for the gift of this story which has opened my eyes to see that the talents You have given me are to be used for the good of others.

Action: this week I will try to show love by...

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