

SEPTEMBER REFLECTION 2019

Jesus Turns Water into Wine at the Wedding at Cana

Invocation *(Make the sign of the cross as the leader prays the invocation.)*

Leader: + Lord, open my lips.

All: ***And my mouth shall declare your praise.***

Psalm 103 *(Pray antiphonally.)*

Bless the LORD, my soul;

all my being, bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, my soul;

and do not forget all his gifts,

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,

slow to anger, abounding in mercy.

He will not always accuse,

and nurses no lasting anger;

He has not dealt with us as our sins merit,

nor requited us as our wrongs deserve.

For as the heavens tower over the earth,

so his mercy towers over those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our sins from us.

The LORD has set his throne in heaven;

his dominion extends over all.

Bless the LORD, all his creatures,

everywhere in his domain.

Bless the LORD, my soul!

Scripture *On the third day there was a wedding - in 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 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 - in Cana - in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.*

John 2:1-11

(Pause for a few moments to meditate on the reading before sharing the reflection.)

Reflection *John opens a window for us to peek into the kitchen where I believe most of this activity took place. John wants us to see something extraordinary and life-giving. The glimpse we catch is of a God who blesses the lives of his people. Out of the corner of our eye we see God providing what is needed via the resources that are available (the 6 stone jars and water). The view through the kitchen window is NOT so much of Jesus turning water into wine as it is of Jesus changing lives. What we think we lack, we actually have in abundance.*

I believe that John gives us this view through the kitchen window at Cana in order to give us encouragement and hope. He knows that somewhere in our life's journey the wine will seem to run out as we come face-to-face with a situation where there seems to be no resources. But this is exactly where we need encouragement and hope. As we look through the kitchen window in Cana, we see how God meets our needs and comes to our rescue through the people and resources around us.

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Prayer ***God of wonder: Help me to trust that you hear my prayers, know what I truly need, and then provide it in ways that are sometimes difficult to recognize or accept. Thank you for changing how I see and respond to others and the situations in which I find myself. Help me embrace the transforming power of your love and use my God-given resources so that others might share in the joy of the wedding banquet; in Jesus' name. Amen***

Sign of the Cross

