



Wednesday Prayer

2nd Sunday after Epiphany – More wine, please

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ~John 2:1-10

I’ve always found it interesting that Jesus’ first known miracle is changing water into wine at a wedding. I mean, I like wine, and would be pretty disappointed if it ran out at a wedding too, but cause for a miracle? And then the exchange between Jesus and his mother: She simply states, “They have no wine” and Jesus (in my opinion) seems to snap back, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you?” Ooh, if my kids called me “woman” we’d be having another conversation. We do laugh however at the times when my son was in middle school and he’d accidentally call me “dude” and then sheepishly say, “Oh, Mom.”

So in this Gospel, Jesus does go ahead with what his mother was presumably expecting – he performs a miracle of abundance, changing the water into wine.

In our interactions with middle and high school youth, they may snap back at us, whether we’re parents, grandparents, teachers, social workers, youth workers, coaches. Recognizing some of this is developmental, some is rooted in trauma, and some is just reaching out for attention – any attention – we would be wise to offer our unconditional love and support through all the mess. Not without boundaries or consequences, but with unwavering love and support. And if you have relatively little interaction with young people, offer your prayers for their growth into loving and healthy relationships.

Jesus performs this miracle to show overflowing abundance and grace. So now I see – this story is about how I show up in community with others, how I provide hospitality, how I am present with the young people I encounter, whether they call me “woman”, “dude” or “Mom”.

God, you show us abundant life and grace. May we do the same with the young people in our lives. And... more wine, please. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.