

2nd Sunday of Ordinary time C cycle 1-20-19

Story of men in prison camp.

- **The men were trapped. They were under bondage of the Japanese soldiers; they didn't know how long they would be held prisoners.**
- **The Japanese captors had them set up their own society; kitchen, lodging, health clinic; farm vegetables and raised chickens,**
- **Something was missing; They lack freedom, and each day in the camp they became more conscious of it.**

The experience of the prisoners of war was much like life in John's Gospel. A good example was in today's gospel of the wedding at Cana (tell the story). A vital element of the party is missing. They have no more wine! Mary puts into words what is lacking at the wedding. Each moment the wedding feast continues, everybody becomes more conscious of it. Jesus has come so that we might have life and have it to the full. He comes to fill up what is lacking in our lives.

Unlike the first three gospels about Jesus Christ, the gospel of John does not focus on sin. Rather, John's Gospel focuses on seven "signs"

of how Jesus fills up what is lacking in people's lives. For example examples:

- John 4: The Royal Official comes to Jesus and pleads, "My little boy is sick; come before he dies."
- John 5: Lame man describes his helplessness at the Pool of Siloam which can cure him; has been there for years. "I have no one to put me into the pool."
- John 6: Jesus has finished preaching to 5,000 people are they are hungry; Philip expresses his frustration: "Even six months wages would not be enough to feed them. Send them away "
- John 11: Mary the brother of Lazarus, expresses her utter disappointment: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

And so in today's gospel Mary captures what the people lack. "They have no more wine." The party is over.

(PAUSE)

Have you ever had that experience of utter hopeless and limitation? A broken relationship, a failed promise, a death dealing disease.

Jesus' response is simple. He goes about filling up what is lacking in the Body of Christ.

He calls his mother, “WOMAN”, Eve, the mother of all the living: it is the one who takes care of her children. But they are lost, lacking the wine which can bring joy to their lives. And Mary knows that Jesus’ role is to bring divine abundance into a world of human limitations.

(PAUSE)

(John Shea) The very purpose of Jesus’ existence is to supply the wine for the marriage of divine and human life.

Jesus enters into human vulnerability;

he is not just a miracle worker. cf. Story of Lazarus (he cries).

He gives the sweet wine by drinking the sour wine on the cross.

Yes, Jesus’ hour finally came.

His HOUR is on the cross; on the cross he enters compassionately into all human limitations and suffering and brings healing.

Tomorrow we celebrate nationally the remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Just as the men in the GI prison camp, he felt great limitations because of the experiences of slavery and racism. But he also knew of the power of the Lord’s death and resurrection in his life. He had a dream of what life could be in Christ. He read the words of Mary in today’s gospel” Do whatever he tells you.” And he brought a healing balm to our world.

May we, in our own limitations, always do whatever he tells us and bring God's joy back into our lives.