

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

January 20, 2013
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Jn 2:1-11

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.

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MARK



Spiritual Reflection:

One of my favorite words that I learned in theology and philosophy studies is the word "shadenfreude." Shadenfreude describes the feeling of joy a person receives at someone's suffering. For example a person may feel schadenfreude when watching another person slip and fall on a banana peel laughs. In first century Israel for a couple to run out of wine during a wedding feast would have been a very embarrassing thing. Jesus chooses though not to have schadenfreude but rather to help. Our world in many subtle and unsubtle ways tries to convince us that God takes joy in our suffering that God feels schadenfreude. The truth of the Gospel is that God never takes joy in our sufferings. God is always on our side.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Have you taken joy in someone's suffering?
2. Do you believe God takes joy in your suffering?
3. Why does Jesus have compassion on us?
4. Why should we have compassion on others?
5. Why does the world assume God is against us?



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