

Connecting with the Sunday Readings

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Word
John 2:1-11

The Gospel according to John is full of symbolism. It invites us to probe for the deeper truth behind the event. This "first sign" of John's Gospel is a wedding feast. Recall that the Kingdom of God was often described as a wedding feast full of overflowing blessings. At the Great Feast, the Messiah is the bridegroom coming to meet his bride, the Church. At the wedding feast of Cana, Jesus' mother begins by announcing that the wine is gone and she announces a new time for all of creation in her words, "Do whatever he tells you." The Kingdom of God is at hand. God's generous love is at work. The wedding feast is salvaged just before it crashes on the rocks of embarrassment. Everyone is happy. This is worth celebrating. Mary's words give a clue to how we can experience the joy of the Kingdom. We are meant to do the will of a gracious God.

Living the Word

Jesus revealed a God who loved and took pity on all of us in our need (as happened at Cana). We can rejoice and be glad. Celebration is in order. One of the songs in the musical, *Godspel*, has the phrase, "Let's have some wine." While the coming of God's Kingdom can be challenging, even difficult at times, there will also be moments of celebration. It's not intended to be all uphill.

What is your primary image of God? This question is worth asking over and over again because its answer is slippery. It's like holding water in your hands. It tends to be there for a while, but no matter how hard you try, eventually you have empty hands. So you need to get a refill. It is the same with our image of God. Refreshing our image is always timely. Today's Gospel offers us this opportunity.

Is God on your side or not? Or is God indifferent to you and your life? Some would say that God is distant and disinterested, if there's a God at all. Our Christian faith offers us a view of God that is almost too wonderful to believe. Through Jesus, God brought health and healing to the world. The wedding feast at Cana describes something about how God is with us. God is not a law office or a judge, a military commander, or a warrior. God is one who cares about us in good times and in times that are not so good. We are made in God's image and so there are expectations about our own goodness. But they don't imply that life must be dreary and dismal. It can be fun. In fact, it should be fun. There's a saying that you can invite people to a celebration, but you can't force them to have fun. Implied is that joy and happiness are choices. Some think that religion is for serious people, not party-goers. The wedding feast at Cana suggests that God's Kingdom is especially for party people.

One-line Prayer

God of life, loosen us up to enjoy the full measure of the happiness that you wish for us. Amen.