

TRINITY NEWS

Seasons of Life Celebrations and Memories

The Gospel at John 2:1-11 describes part of a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It comes after the packed opening of John's Gospel. That opening is chock-full of intense theological probing, the witness of John the Baptist and the call of Andrew and Simon, Philip and Nathaniel. The details of Nathaniel's call here are not found elsewhere.

Then the wedding feast occurs. The mother of Jesus was there and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. We are not told the names of the bride and groom, and in fact they are not the main participants in the story. Jesus and Mary and what we would call the Master of Ceremonies are the main actors. It is not about the miracle of love, which is the dream of every real marriage, but about the miracle of turning water into wine. There was a shortage of wine at the feast. There is a brief and somewhat abrupt exchange between Mary and Jesus in which she informs him of the shortage. He responds, in part negatively, because his "hour has not yet come." Why? She tell the servants to do whatever he tells them.

Mary's part in this may be because some of her kin are involved. Otherwise, why does she have such authority? Where is Joseph? Jesus may be at a family wedding. The water had been set aside in large stone jars for ceremonial cleansing at the feast, and Jesus tells the servants to draw some of it out and take it to the Master of Ceremonies to check its quality. He pronounces it to be the "best", available towards the end of the feast. The best wine was usually served first, and then the inferior stuff when taste buds were less discerning. Some things do not change!

The writer tells this to show Jesus' first miracle in Cana of Galilee. It is one the "miraculous signs" that occur in the first twelve chapters of John as we read them. It is intended to show the glory of God in Jesus so that others may see it. The details of the wedding are not a priority. Did Jesus direct the servants to one jar or the lot? What does "some" water/wine mean in connection with the water jars?

This ceremony is a celebration of life. Time would not have been a concern, except to do as much of it as possible in daylight. Weddings are memorable for various reasons. The bride and groom are forgotten here. Sometimes in our weddings what they really want is forgotten when it comes to invitations, but the young couples now are a bit more assertive. We all like a good party, and Jesus and his disciple were no exception. Weddings are passing moments, and then the matter of attending to all the details and attention to sensitivities that make it work begins. So it was with the relationship with Jesus and his disciples. We should begin how we would like to end, and this was a great start, using one of the seasons of life moments to mark it!

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Monday, Jan. 21

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

Tuesday, Jan. 22.

- Group Discussion @ the Tutton's, 7:30pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 23.

- Bible Study, Parish Hall.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Nehemiah 8:2-10; Psalm 113; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Luke 4:14-21

TO PLAN:

- “*Befriending Tension in our Journey*” seminar on Feb. 2 (Saturday, 8:30-12:00).
- VESTRY MEETING - FEBRUARY 4.
- PANCAKE SUPPER - FEBRUARY 12.
- ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 13.