

Sermon- January 20th 2019- Our Saviors Lutheran Church
Text- John 2:1-12- Wedding at Cana

Extraordinary Wine and People

Grace and Peace to you and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Here we have a familiar Gospel account, the Wedding at Cana. It is the first miracle recorded in the Gospel of John. Many months ago, actually on Pentecost Sunday I shared a cute story about weddings. Since, it is quite possible many of you were traveling, many of you are new to OSLC, or many are forgetful, I share the story again.

Jennifer's wedding day is fast approaching, and nothing was going to get in the way of a perfect wedding. Not even Jennifer's parent's recent divorce. Jennifer's mom, Carol, had found the perfect mother of the bride dress. She would be the the best dressed mother of the bride ever. A week later, Jennifer was horrified her new young stepmother, Barbie had purchased the same dress. (They are always named Barbie.) Jennifer asks Barbie to exchange the dress, and of course she refuses.

Jennifer explains this to her Mom who tells her daughter not to worry, she will buy a different dress. Which she does. A few weeks later Jennifer and her mom are having lunch and Jennifer shares that she is feeling badly, there is no occasion for her to wear the first dress. Her mom smiles and says, "Of course, there is dear, I'm wearing it to the rehearsal dinner."

So what's the Gospel story have to do with you and me? Much, I would think. Three days after Jesus is baptized in the Jordon river, he and his mother are invited to a wedding reception. Weddings were different in those days, different than what we are used to. People didn't just come for a few hours, eat, dance, drink and then go home. They came for days, a week perhaps. Reminds me of my Godchild Lindsay. She met a young man at Marquette University in Milwaukee by the name of Gurucharan Angisetty. How would you like to say that name every time you met him. We just call him Guru. He hailed from India. They had 3 weddings. The first, a destination wedding in Las Vegas. The second, an ELCA wedding at Our Saviors number 2 in Appleton where I officiated and the third in India which lasted for 5 days. Wow. Five days.

Back to the Gospel. At some point at the wedding at Cana, the family runs out of wine, a major faux pas in Jewish culture. Jesus's mother discovers this and asks Jesus for help, who says it's not his problem. Mary simply tells the servants to do whatever he tells you. Mary is a Jewish mom, she doesn't take No for an answer. Do whatever he tells you! That would be interesting for you and me, followers of Jesus.

Do whatever he tells you!

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Love your enemies

If anyone takes your coat, give him your shirt as well

Give to God the things that are God's.

But, back to the Gospel. Well, Jesus does get involved. He tells the servants to fill up the stone water pots that are standing nearby. These are 30 gallon pots used for washing hands between the courses at the meal. Jesus directs the servants to take the water to the host of the reception which they do. And bingo, the water has turned into wine, and not just house wine, but extraordinary wine, the best wine that the folks has tasted.

So what's the point for us. Actually, quite simple. When Jesus enters our lives, extraordinary things happen, not hocus pocus stuff but extraordinary stuff. Jesus turns water into wine, turns a blind man into a sighted man, he turns an outcast woman at a well into a proclaimer of grace, and he turned a little boy's lunch into a feast for thousands.

When Jesus enters our lives he does extraordinary things.

That's the point of the Gospel for you and me. When we let Jesus into our lives, extraordinary things happen, and we become extraordinary people.

He enters our lives and the stale marriage becomes alive again.

He enters our lives and the worries that consume us each day become trivial.

He enters our lives and a change takes place in how we view other people.

He enters our lives and our selfishness disappears.

He enters our lives and we become caring people for our families and our community.

He enters our lives and wonderful things happen, we become extraordinary people.

The point is. We have to let him enter our lives. Let him in.
And also to remember Mary's words. Do whatever he tells you!
When we do that we become extraordinary people!
Amen. Let it be so!