



Grain

“We have inherited a large house, a great “world house” in which we have to live together—black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu—a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live together with each other in peace.”

Field

2On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” 5His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. 9When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. John 2:1-11

Thoughts

Such a quiet miracle we’re let in on. John’s Gospel isn’t recalling a public exorcism or healing, but a kind act behind the scenes that also gives us a glimpse into God’s abundance.

We’re not offered many details about the wedding. We simply get a view of Jesus as part of a community and participating in a ritual. Maybe one of the people getting married was a relative, or a friend, or a neighbor who felt the sudden pressure of a day of celebration failing. What kind of personal shame would the couple have to live with if they couldn’t provide even the cheapest wine for the duration of their wedding feast? Perhaps their deficiency would feed into negative images others had of the couple. “Wasn’t it just like them to not even have enough wine,” some might leave saying. But behind the scenes Jesus turned water into wine. That was just one of the reversals. When the guests expected the least expensive wine, and almost received nothing, they were lavished with the most extravagant wine. Only the best for you, said God. This may bring to mind examples of when someone helped you to keep your dignity intact or you assisted another?

Caring about the couple saving face might seem too small of a concern for the Messiah, but God is manifest unexpectedly and intimately within community. Jesus’ very human encounters, often reversing humiliation, inform our broader vision. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was inspired to recognize the earthly wedding feast as the beloved community. “We have inherited a large house, a great “world house” in which we have to live together.... “Our goal is to create a beloved community.” Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy