

## *We celebrate the wedding, the union of us and no less than God, in Jesus Christ*

“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.’”

Perhaps the Lord’s reputation as “a glutton and a drunkard” arose from situations like the wedding at Cana, where they ran out of wine shortly after Jesus and his disciples showed up! (His mother certainly knew who to talk to about it.) There is no doubt that Jesus enjoyed eating and drinking. It seems that in every other story in the gospels, Jesus is at somebody’s house for dinner or telling a story about a wedding or a banquet. The point, of course, wasn’t about excess. Or was it?

The story says that the six stone water jars used in the miracle each held “20 or 30 gallons,” and that they were “filled to the brim.” That would mean that Jesus supplied somewhere between 120 and 180 gallons of wine to the party. Wow! That’s a lot of wine, and it was “good wine,” too, according to the headwaiter.

The New American Bible footnote to this story says that the “vast quantity (of wine) recalls prophecies of abundance in the last days,” and then references Amos, chapter 9, Hosea, chapter 14, and Jeremiah, chapter 31.

Modern sensibilities shy away from any suggestion of excess when it comes to alcoholic beverages, but this story is about kingdom time. In the marriage of God and humanity in Jesus Christ, the wine flows abundantly and the good times roll! God is lavish in God’s will for the good of human kind.

The wedding feast of Cana is not really about a wedding at all. It’s about what God does in Jesus Christ - it is a sign of the “hour” yet to come, wherein Jesus definitively destroys death forever. The “hour” in Saint John’s gospel is the time of Jesus’ death and resurrection. That’s what we celebrate here and make present at every Eucharist - the wedding feast of the union of God and humanity in which death is overcome forever. We know that Jesus still keeps the cup filled at tables all over the world. The glass he first lifted was his own body hung high on a cross; the wine he provides is his own blood. We are gathered at a never-ending wedding celebration. We come not as guests, but to hear our bridegroom once more assure us that he will be with us in love, not only until we die, but forever.

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