

Reflection Sunday 16th January

John 2:1-11

On 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.

We all like dinner parties, celebratory meals and special events to go without any problems. The one cooking the Christmas dinner hopes that the food we are serving will all be ready on time and that nothing gets burnt or left in the oven. Of course as good Methodists we would not be drinking large amounts of wine so we would not be likely to run out.

I have a niece-in-law who is a wedding planner. Her role is to organise a wedding event so that the bride and groom can relax and enjoy the day without any problems occurring and if something does go awry there is a person around to sort it out.

Jesus was attending a wedding when the wine ran out; a great embarrassment to the family. A Jewish wedding was a major event and was also very difficult to plan for, as it was not a short event with limited guests. Jesus was not responsible for any of the event; he like his mother and disciples had been invited to attend. "What concern is that to me?" Jesus asked when his mother spoke to him about it.

His mother was not put off but told the servants to take their instructions from Jesus. Jesus took control and performed a miracle, or a sign as John described it, and all was well and indeed better than well. It was such fine wine, wine of such a quality, that the steward was amazed.

What are we to make of this incident in the life of Jesus? We have a picture of a person who was concerned by the normal issues of the day and helped a family out of an embarrassing situation but does he always do that?

Perhaps the simple message is that we can present a need to Jesus, however important it may be, or not, and allow him to respond as he chooses. If Jesus had not known of the lack of wine he could not have done anything about it.

Yes God is "all knowing" but he chooses, for his own reasons, to include humankind in his purposes for the world; as we express our loving concern for another by bringing a need before God he can respond according to his will and purpose. Without our expression of concern and love will he?