

John 2:1-11

1/20/19

Pastor Lauren Dow Wegner

10 years ago,

There was a wedding not in Cana but in Columbia.

South Carolina, that is.

The wedding of Lauren Dow and David Wegner.

There was good food and good drink,

And the miracle at that wedding:

the wedding cake that people still talk about as the  
best wedding cake ever--

That cake came from a grocery store.

A store called Publix found in the Southeast,

Makes really good sheet cake.

And so we miraculously ended up with a super affordable  
wedding cake that was also wondrously delicious.

That was the miracle at the wedding in Columbia.

Jesus and his disciples are invited to a wedding in Cana,

And when our Gospel picks up today,

It seems the reception is pretty far along,

For the guests are drunk on wine--

Wine that has run out.

And so Jesus' mother, Mary, alerts Jesus to this problem.

And he seems to shrug it off,

“What concern is that to you and me?

My hour has not yet come.”

But Mary knew he would do something about it.

Doesn't she always know?

Mary, the ponderer,  
The treasurer of all that she heard and saw when  
her son was born--  
She's still the same, here in this moment,  
years later.

She still knows way more than others do about her son.  
Even after being a little dismissed by Jesus at the wedding,  
She isn't fazed.  
She turns to the servants and says, "Do whatever  
he tells you."

She knew.

Jesus does do something.  
The six jars used for the Jewish rite of purification each hold 20 or  
30 gallons of water.  
To fill these up to the brim with water,  
As the servants did,  
As Jesus instructed the servants to do,  
Would've taken a while.

And it would've taken work,  
Because it's not like you can carry the jugs to a faucet and  
run water directly into them.  
The servants had to draw water,  
Carry it,  
And pour it into these large jars.

The servants worked,  
For what they didn't even know was a miracle waiting to  
happen.

Jesus used the servants in the miracle,

And the servants were the first--  
    And presumably the only ones besides Jesus and the  
    disciples and Mary,  
        The first and only to know about the miracle at all.  
The servants that day were both workers in the miracle,  
    And witnesses of it.  
Not the chief steward,  
    Not even the bridegroom,  
        But the servants were part of this miracle work.

What miracle work are you privy to,  
    Invited to?  
What work does Jesus call you to?  
    What jugs are you to fill?  
The servants only brought water to the jugs.  
    Jesus made the water wine.  
So this miracle at the wedding in Cana invites us to work,  
    To be part of the miracle work of Jesus.

Many miraculous things happen with our involvement--  
    Sometimes this is just our eyes to see it and acknowledge it.  
        And sometimes,  
            We bring something with which Jesus can work.  
The feeding of the 5,000--  
    Jesus says, "You give them something to eat."  
        And he multiplies it.  
The creation of new life--

We are involved in that miracle.  
Forgiveness--  
That's a true miracle sometimes.  
Brought about by God,  
Through an open and willing human heart.  
In today's polarized world,  
The miracle of unity, understanding, transformation among  
two very different people or sides,  
Can only happen through divine presence,  
And also only happens when people do the hard  
work of being vulnerable and authentic with one  
another.

We, servants of Christ,  
Can be part of miracle work.  
Even in noticing a miracle,  
Pointing to it,  
Naming the God who caused it to be--  
We are part of miracle work.

At the wedding in Cana,  
When six jugs of water are turned into wine--  
That amount of wine would fill over 500 wine bottles.  
Way more than needed for a wedding reception  
that is halfway over!  
Jesus' miracle work is always an abundant miracle work.

Way more than we need,  
Or thought we would need.  
The jars that held water,  
Now hold wine.  
The water that washes one clean and purifies,  
Now becomes the wine of celebration.

We have the same water and wine here--  
Water that purifies, cleanses, and makes us new.  
Wine that pours in abundance directly from the miracle-  
worker, Jesus, who died and rose again for us.  
And when we touch this water and hear the voice of God that  
claims us in baptism. . .

When we eat this bread and drink this wine and take in the  
heart of God that forgives us in this Meal. . .

We are called to participate with Christ in miracle work,  
To go where Christ goes,  
(Which is most likely where we  
wouldn't).

To draw near to those who feel far from  
Christ,  
(those who most likely we'd rather stay  
far from ourselves).

To say and do and live the Gospel of Christ,  
(which is often the most uncomfortable  
and scary and unpopular thing to say  
and do and live).

But in this water and this wine,  
we are given all we need to be part of Jesus' miracle work,  
To see it firsthand,

And to point it out to others.

Like Mary,

We know Jesus is going to do something--

For he is always at work in our lives and in our world.

Let's see what he's gonna do next--

Let's fill some jugs with water,

And let Jesus do the rest.

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