

January 25, 2022

**TRANSFORMATION**

What are we to make of the changing of water into wine, a miracle which, we are told, Jesus performed at a wedding at Cana in Galilee? It is a story which confounds us, we who live in a modern world which has pushed belief in the supernatural out beyond the edge of reality. Changing water into wine, indeed! How do we explain this story? My initial comment would be that Jesus lives in a different dimension than ordinary human beings, and, because of that fact, is able to do things which are beyond human understanding.

Further, I would observe that Jesus was about the business of transformation in this world, drawing people into this new dimension of human life which he represented. Hence, we have this story of Jesus transforming water into wine, a “sign” which has deep symbolic meaning. It is really about the transformation of personal lives. Ordinary water becomes new wine!

As Jesus made his way about Galilee, people he touched – sinful, alienated, suffering people – became liberated children of God. In some sense, the water is “freed” to become wine. Jesus mysteriously releases its potential. In the same process, people are freed from the bondage of sin to become what God intended them to be. This is the growth process in which, hopefully, we are all involved here at Trinity, i.e. discovering our hidden potential to become children of God.

At another level, the wedding at Cana is a celebration of the Word of God – the New Wine. The wine steward says to the bridegroom: “you have kept the good wine until now.” In other words, this is it! This is the final revelation from God.

The story ends with the statement: “. . .; and his disciples believed in him. This is the bottom line, the transformation which Jesus sought to bring about. He gave his followers faith in the presence, power, and love of God. The life of Jesus was and is lived among us to transform the world. Give me some of this new wine! Amen

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