

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## JESUS' LOVE IS THE BEST FOR ETERNITY



Jesus begins His ministry by partaking of a wedding meal. Certain grouchy minds must have thought this a curious way of proclaiming the Word of God. Jesus Himself foretold that one day He would say, “the Son of Man has come eating and drinking and they say, ‘He is a glutton and a drunkard’” (Mt 11-19). This Gospel should not be read as a happy ending. Thus Jesus acted in the line of prophets. These and others proclaimed God's Message as much by symbolic gestures as by words. **The imagery of weddings expresses God's love for His people.** They are gestures today that remind us of the new covenant. On one occasion, he compared God's Kingdom to a king's wedding feast for his son. Jesus stripped our sinful humanity to lift it up to His divinity. **He invites everyone to live a covenant of love with him.**

But the wine is missing. **In the Bible, wine is a symbol of joy and divine blessing.** The lack of wine expresses the distress of men who are far from God. Jesus saw this suffering and came down among us that we might have the fullness of His joy. All this, He manifests in Cana for this wedding. And he did not read about the means: six buckets, about six hundred liters! And not ordinary wine but truly “superior” as we had never tasted! Not good wine kept till now, that of His love for us.

The first reading invites us into the spirit of the prophet's enthusiasm. He nonetheless addresses a community that finds itself reduced to a handful of rescues. There is nothing wrong with recognizing in this description: it is in good tone to be uneasy about the Church; it's true that the decline in religious practice, the lack of priests, the divisions among Christians are cause for concern. But the prophet intervenes to remind us that God has never stopped loving us. He introduces himself to everyone as the husband who is passionately in love with his wife. Your power and glory will shine, so that the surrounding nations will be amazed. St. Paul specifically reminds us that we are not abandoned. Whatever the charisma of each, it is always He who acts. It is primarily thanks to Him that the work of missionaries can bear fruit.

**In today's Gospel, we must not forget the role of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She saw the lack of wine and told her son. She is also present in our lives. She sees all our shortcomings:** of love and joy, of hope, of peace. Without love, we cannot enter into this covenant between God and men. But we must understand Mary's invitation: **"Whatsoever he saith unto you, do."**

Today as never before, Jesus invites us to stay. This water that we must drink of is the life that is in God, that is, the water of His love; it's the living water that Jesus offered to the Samaritan woman. The Lord never ceases to want to fill us with this life that is in Him. The sign of Cana announces to us the overflowing joy of Easter. Once again, one last time, we discovered that Jesus would keep the best for later and for centuries upon centuries. Amen

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