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YESHUA*, THEY HAVE NO WINE

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

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." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

**Yeshua is the name of Jesus in Hebrew.*

Reflection

The scene takes place in Cana, about nine miles from Nazareth. The mother of Jesus was invited to a wedding with Jesus and his disciples. During the marriage feast, Mary noticed that the wine had run out, and she discreetly approached her son, expecting him to do something so the couple would not be embarrassed. Jesus' immediate response was unwilling, yet his mother, full of trust and confidence in Jesus, said to the servers, *"Do whatever he tells you."* Jesus then directed the servers to fill six large empty stone ceremonial jars with water, which would later amount to many gallons of good wine! In John's Gospel, this was Jesus' first miracle – it was done at the request of Jesus' mother and for the quiet edification of his disciples. It was not done to demonstrate Jesus' power in a public arena; rather, it was done as a sign to manifest Jesus' glory, the presence of God in him. ***"It revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him."***



Wine Glass with Red Wine
Photo by Posawee Suwannaphati

For Pondering and Prayer

- What was happening in Jesus when he seemed unwilling to accomplish his mother's request? Was he discerning if "his hour" had come to begin his mission in the eyes of others?
- When Jesus addressed his mother as "Woman," he was using a cultural term of solemn respect. What was your reaction when Jesus responded the way he did to her compassionate request for the married couple?
- With the good wine that Jesus provided, imagine the happiness that filled

the banquet hall that evening and the joy bubbling up in Jesus' disciples as they witnessed the glory of their Rabbi: God is present in Jesus! You might want to imagine Mary tasting the good wine provided by her beloved Son. Was she was dancing?

- Perhaps you would like to express in prayer the words of 1 John 4:16: "We have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us."

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