

Daily Reflections



JESUS THE BRIDEGROOM

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were accustomed to fast. People came to Jesus and objected, "Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. If he does, its fullness pulls away, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."

MARK 2:18-22

Reflection

As the Gospel of Mark continues to unfold, we see the image of Jesus as one who did not come primarily for the rich and powerful but for anyone who was crushed or excluded or marginalized, those living on the fringes. Jesus was seeking those who were pushed aside by harsh cultural practices or ultra strict traditions. Because of this, Jesus experienced resistance from the religious authorities who questioned the behavior of Jesus' followers. In the passage above, Jesus answered the leaders with a question and implied that he has come as a bridegroom for his followers. He described his relationship with his chosen ones as being at a joyful wedding feast where fasting would be inappropriate.

Jesus then offered two parables regarding the process of mending an old cloak or pouring new wine into old worn-out wineskins. Jesus is the New Wine, and new wineskins are needed. This is a new day when the Kingdom of God is close at hand, a time of love and compassion, a time of justice and the lifting of burdens on the lowly and downtrodden.



Photo by Posawee Suwannaphati

For Pondering and Prayer

- Does the image of Jesus, the Bridegroom, with his chosen ones at a joyful wedding feast resonate with you when you think of your relationship with him?
- Is there a place for joy and celebration in your relationship with God?
- Perhaps this is a quality you would like to foster in your communion with the Holy One. The prayer below adapted from today's liturgy might be a starter:

*Pour on us, O Lord,
the Spirit of your love, like New Wine,
and in your kindness,
make those you have chosen to follow you
become one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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