

### Reflection for Epiphany 3: Earthy glory! [Revelation 19:6-10](#) [John 2:1-11](#)

Weddings are times of great celebration. For many, this is the culmination of years of preparation. The happy couple and their families will have planned and saved up for some considerable time for their special day. Relatives and friends will come from far and wide to join the celebrations.

Weddings in the time of Jesus were every bit as celebratory. There would be long nights of partying with extended family and neighbours, with lots of wine. No expense would be spared; indeed, any attempt at skimping on the booze would be considered an insult to the guests and could result in guests bringing lawsuits against their hosts.



This account of the wedding at Cana is full of earthiness. It's a reminder of the way Jesus is present in the full spectrum of human life. He didn't avoid such raucous occasions as wedding parties, but rather was steeped in them. He's present as a family member, under his mother's instruction and authority. He's present with his friends, his disciples, who are witnesses to this event, which is both part of the ordinary passage of family and community living, and extraordinary in the transformation which Jesus brings to it.

Look at the earthy acknowledgement from the master of the banquet that there is an expectation that people will get drunk on the rough wine which is brought out after the good stuff has been finished.

Jesus is initially reluctant to intervene in the problem of the lack of wine at the party. He tells his mother: 'My hour has not yet come.' Yet she sees a different possibility, that Jesus' hour has come. There is something wonderfully earthy in her faith, the gentle push of a mother who knows her son, but who also knows he is truly the Son of God.

We see here how Jesus' promise to Nathanael which we read last week – "You shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." is being fulfilled. In Jesus, heaven has come to earth, and the things of earth are transformed, not just once, but over and over again, down through time. This is indeed earthy glory, the glory of God earthed in the everyday, however chaotic and stressful that may be.

The Wedding at Cana reminds us that Jesus meets us and our needs right where we are. We see the joyous, lavish abundance of his love and glory. We also catch a foretaste of the superabundance of what is to come, when we will be part of that ultimate wedding celebration in heaven.

When we feel that we are mired in the depths of daily living, let's remind ourselves that Jesus is here with us, and we are called out of despair. Let's take up Mary's command to the servants, and "Do whatever he tells you", for the obedience of servants at the wedding feast meant that they were part of the miracle of transforming the things of earth into something glorious.

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