

In today's Gospel reading, we see Jesus performing the miracle of changing water into wine at the wedding in a small town of Cana. This miracle can have depict different changes that Jesus can bring in our lives.

Jesus can change water into wine, our past into a different future.

In his Letter to the Corinthians, today's second reading, St. Paul is writing to a talented but divided parish about the variety of gift people are given. Sometimes we might think that because we do not have another's talent that we admire that we have no talent. We are all given talents and whatever talents we have can be used to build up rather than divide the Church. St. Paul lists some of them as wisdom, teaching ability, the gift of a strong faith, healing, prophecy, the ability to spotlight the critical moral issues of our time, speaking in tongues and the gift of interpreting its significance.

In Christ, our talents can become gifts to the Church, instruments of grace, vehicles of His truth, avenues of His love and ways of building up the Church. We tend to think that if we cannot do great things, therefore we should not do anything. Yet, anything can be a place of grace: parents teaching their children about the Lord, the hospital visit, the work of teachers in a classroom, the time spent with a worried neighbor, encouragement given to a friend, truth spoken to a fellow-Christian, words on a wedding day that become a life of fidelity, a conversation on the sacredness of life that triggers a conversion in another person's heart.

These are places where the glory of Christ can show itself. Something doesn't have to be big to be important. Nor can we choose the events that cross our path or the issues with which we are involved. Jesus came to this wedding and there He encountered a need.

We are called to follow the Lord not in the places of our choosing but here and now in this place, at this time, among these people, facing these issues. We might want it to be otherwise, but it isn't. Here and now is the path through which we follow the Lord. Cana reminds us that great things can happen in any place and in every place!

Jesus can change water into wine, our past into a different future, our talents into gifts to the Church, small places like Cana into places of "gallons of grace." It was reported a while

ago that some archeologists may have found the actual location of Cana. Maybe they did and maybe they didn't. It would be great if they did. But we don't have to go to Cana to know the transforming power of Christ in our life. Here, He can give us the power of His grace to change our past into a different future. Here, He can give us the grace to turn our talents into gifts to His Church. Here, He can make the ordinary things of our life into places of extraordinary grace.

He still changes water into wine among us every day.