



WEEK 1 DEVOTIONAL

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Today, is the first week of Lent.

Welcome to the table.

Take a moment to pause and breath in and out slowly. Intentionally. Rest in knowing that God welcomes you to His grace filled table.

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Think of all the many tables we come across in the everyday moments of our life. As I think through my day, I come across a bedside table, there's of course a kitchen table, a dining room table, conference table at work and in my basement, a board gaming table.

For some, they may be experiencing an operating table, a church communion table or the exuberance of a wedding table. What other tables do you find in your life?

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As the different tables came to mind what feelings come to you with each one? Does one seem closer or more distant to Jesus than another? Why might that be?

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We join Jesus today, at the table of a wedding feast. It's a special occasion but also in another sense, perhaps; ordinary.

Eavesdropping in on the conversation between Mary and Jesus makes one a little uncomfortable—does it not?

This is also an event one would not expect to be the place Jesus performs His first miracle—and yet perhaps it's the perfect place—as we will reflect on later.

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The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and His disciples were also invited to the celebration. The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told Him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come. "But His mother told the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, He said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed His instructions.

When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed His glory. And His disciples believed in Him. After the wedding He went to Capernaum for a few days with His mother, His brothers, and His disciples.

John 2:2–12, NLT

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What captures your attention from this story? Why do you think that is?

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Remember those tables we all come across in the normal flow of our lives? Now think a little deeper about them. Begin to reflect on how each of those tables can be places to bring joy and delight as you follow Mary's instructions to, "Do what Jesus says."

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I'm moved by how authors Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola reflect on this table moment as they write, "It did not happen by chance that the miracle Jesus chose to launch His ministry was not to raise the dead or heal the sick but to bring life to a party. The "sign" of wine at the wedding of Cana was a sign of Jesus' entire ministry—a ministry of pouring out, where He Himself would become body and blood, bread and wine for a hungry humanity, and there would never be a short supply—only an overabundance."

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Going back to the many tables we are at through the course of our day. How can you be open to Jesus using you across the tables of your life—in the ordinary, unexpected places to bring joy, life, and abundance?

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As you hear today's Scripture again, reflect on where do you find this table in the everyday moments of your life?



In these final moments today, picture Jesus inviting you to sit across from Him in one of those tables you find in a coffee house or outdoor cafe. Now across that table talk to Jesus about what you reflected on earlier. How you can be open to Him using you at the many tables through the course of your day to bring joy, life, and abundance in unexpected ways?

Come!

Come to the table!

Jesus is expecting you!