

Resources on the Sunday Readings - Epiphany 3

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Picture Reflection



Do something different - Mark 1: 14-20 (reading on page 2)

- Jesus offers the four fishermen a life-changing opportunity in this passage. What surprises us about their response?
- Spend a few minutes with the picture...Where might she be going? What has caused her to turn around?
- Where, in our daily lives, might Jesus be speaking to us? What competes with listening to his voice?
- What might Jesus say to us? Would we say 'yes' automatically to his call? What might cause us to hesitate to respond?
- How might God be calling us to use our time more wisely?

Bible Reading – Mark 1:14-20 Good News Bible

¹⁴ After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. ¹⁵ “The right time has come,” he said, “and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!”

¹⁶ As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, catching fish with a net. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and went with him.

¹⁹ He went a little farther on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat getting their nets ready. ²⁰ As soon as Jesus saw them, he called them; they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went with Jesus.

All Age Activity

Make an invitation

You will need: folded sheet of A5 coloured card, pens, craft materials, stickers, glue.

- Take a folded A5 piece of card and write ‘You are invited to follow Jesus. Will you respond?’ on the outside, and on the inside, write ‘R.S.V.P.’ leaving space to write.
- Using pens, stickers and craft materials, make the card look like an invitation to the greatest party.
- Under the R.S.V.P. write your name and think about what it means to respond to Jesus’ call and follow him.

Bible Study hints and questions.

READING John 2:1-11 New Revised Standard Version

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' 4And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' 5His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' 6Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. 8He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. 9When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' 11Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

So Jesus was at a wedding with his mother, and they ran out of wine. His apparent reaction was 'so what?' suggesting to his mother that it was not their problem. But 'mother knows best' (or thinks she does), and tells the servants to do whatever Jesus instructs. And so the miracle follows, just one of seven recorded in John's Gospel, in some detail. The servants fill the jars with water, Jesus turns it into wine, and the steward questions why such good wine is being produced at the end of the feast.

This is an event, an occurrence, stuffed full of symbolism. Like so much of Christ's teachings, actions, instructions, it pays to read between the lines, to find out what he is really saying. So, beyond the drama, underneath the rather headline grabbing gimmickry, what messages do you get from this, at first unlikely, narrative?

Think about these questions as you try to analyse what this miracle means for us today:

1. What signs does Jesus give us to reveal himself in our lives?
2. What is the significance of the fact that the jars were empty, and had to be filled before Jesus could create the wine?
3. The best wine came last. Does that inspire optimism when you examine your faith in these difficult times?
4. Do the elements of Communion – initially ordinary bread and wine, help you to feel the closeness of Jesus – even in our 'virtual' celebration?
5. Do you believe in the miracles, or do you try to work out how they were done?
6. John describes seven miracles – how many more can you find recorded in the Gospels? (no prizes!)