

Sermon Summary
2nd after Epiphany
20th January 2013

- People have tried to read complex references to the Eucharist etc in to the Wedding at Cana- with mixed results
- People have also been concerned about the way Jesus talks to his mother- but these are actually conventional for the time- even if it appears a bit brusque to us...
- The passage speaks of the generosity of God- the quantity of wine produced far exceeds what would have been needed.
- Even if, as the Desperate Fishwives put it: "they take a fair bucket in Cana".
- Gerard Hughes (God of Surprises) shares an anecdote about a retreatant who contemplates this scene.
- Everyone, he reported, was having a great time.
- "What about Jesus?", asked the retreat director.
- He, apparently, was looking stern, glum and disapproving- despite being the source of the jollity.
- This reminds us that we often inherit or absorb understandings of God
- The anecdote shows how such an inherited picture was at odds with Scripture- and stood in need of correction.
- We need to reread Scripture like the retreatant to unpick the inherited pictures we have of God from the reality.
- This is how we grow in faith
- In this case, it also shows that we should be thinking of Jesus as more life-affirming or positive.
- The Church is often portrayed negatively- but this is not because of God, but because of the way we have chosen to pass on His message.
- It is time for us to unlearn some of the old pictures to rejoice in the love of a God who creates and enjoys life.

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