

Today's thought focuses on an important episode in Jesus' ministry, his first miracle. Although this miracle is very known today, even in the secular world, almost no one noticed when it happened. As a matter of fact, not even the main protagonists of the event that Jesus was attending: the bride and the groom of a wedding, where Jesus turned water into wine. The wedding takes place in the small village of Cana, in the north of Nazareth. If you don't know where it is, don't worry, that is exactly the point 😊

Some would expect Jesus to perform his first miracle in Rome, the center of the empire at that time. Perhaps in Jerusalem, in the center of the Jewish culture. There were political problems, there were religious problems, there was a national identity problem, and so there were different expectations to how God was to fix all that. Moreover, a shortage of "solutions".

And THE solution that Jesus is to provide is foretold, in a small hidden village in the beginning of his ministry. Where for the moment, all what people care about, is the shortage of wine and its taste...

- **Nico:** I must say, if I am in a wedding, I really need my wine to be white, sweet and crisp
- **Izzy:** I must say I really like red dry wine with a strong flavor intensity
- **Nico:** A rather weak yet smokey flavor in my way to go
- **Izzy:** A good wine for me is never a sweet wine, neither fruity, but oaky and firm
- **Nico:** Hmm, I disagree, the fruity scent is a must have, especially if it's also there in the aftertaste. Something rather astringent.
- **Izzy:** white wine, only if the meal demands it. I don't like the off-dry
- **Nico:** Not really, make sure to rather match the meal with the delicious white wine. Not the other way around

When it comes to individual taste, there will always be differences, especially when it comes to drinks. No matter which party or dinner you attend, there will always be someone who thinks that the beer is too bitter, the whiskey too peaty, the wine too sweet... and there will always be someone who likes it!

When Jesus turned water to wine and had it served to the guests, as far as we know no one complained. That seems unlikely, right? There can't be such a thing as a wine that has a taste that everyone likes. We're way too different in all kinds of ways and that is a good thing! Obviously, there was something special about that wine and it can't be the taste.

Let's change perspective and see the wine as a metaphor: Let's see the wine as a solution to whatever kind of problem. There're hundreds of problems out there and you can't solve every problem the same way. If someone is always tired you can tell that person to sleep more, that might work. But if that person has problems with being on time or taking care of a relationship, sleeping a lot might not necessarily help. Every problem needs an individual solution, every taste needs an individual bottle of wine.

And here's where Jesus' wine gets important again. Because I think that that wine didn't have a specific taste, but that it tasted different to every single guest, each one tasting it the way it pleased them most. Jesus' wine is that infamous individual solution I mentioned. Had he served the exact same wine to every person there was bound to be someone who wouldn't like it. Had he offered the exact same solution to every single person's problem, there was bound to be some problems he couldn't solve. But he served a wine that hit the right spot with every single person, served a solution, that suited every single person's problem. Jesus respected the individuality of every guest, accepted that we are all different, with different stories and concerns. He left no one behind.

Kommentiert [IP1]: How do the brothers and sisters from Africa react to this? Should we just stick it to wine?

He wouldn't say: "This is the perfect wine; you have to like it!"

I think he would say: "This is the perfect wine for YOU, I think you'll like it."

And in using wine as a metaphor, there is another thing that might be worth thinking about. Wine is something most people enjoy. Jesus served something everyone could enjoy. We can enjoy God's wonders, enjoy God's solutions. Trust that it will be good for every single one of us!

So, let us enjoy Jesus wine. Let us enjoy each other!

Amen!