

“Make love, not war” was one of the slogans in the 60s and 70s
as the sexual revolution came into full swing
and the conflict over oppressive forms of communism
took shape in ways that still mark our culture.

Even though it could be argued that so-called “free love” is not love at all, but simply gratifying animal instincts,

there is a profound connection between the deepest bodily intimacy and the deepest need of every person

– **the need to be loved by our Creator;**

Because that deepest bodily intimacy participates in God’s creating love for humanity.

God created marriage to fulfill his first command – be fruitful and multiply.

So, it is not surprising that the first sign of Jesus bringing God’s promised deliverance is the lavishing of abundance on a wedding.

Think of how often God’s love intervened in the brokenness of humanity to restore the Eden command – “be fruitful and multiply” –

- Noah after the flood
- Abraham and Sarah with Isaac
- Miriam and Moses
- The Passover and Exodus
- Elkanah & Hannah and Samuel
- Ruth and Boaz

- Zechariah and Elizabeth

The kingdom or realm of God brings life into being.

Last Sunday, we heard how we are called to be baptized

To share in the new life of Jesus' death and resurrection

To live each day in that life that cannot be destroyed

Today, we see Jesus giving life at a wedding

- life as the potential human fruit of a marriage
- and life as the fruit of the vine that was the life of the party in Cana of Galilee.

“Be fruitful and multiply “ applies not only to sex and babies, but also to the baptismal life of faith.

Let's see what this story offers to teach us.

Mary, Jesus and his disciples were all invited to this wedding, though Mary seems to be the primary contact.

1. Be where the action is.

- a. Every Christian needs to be engaged in ordinary life with ordinary people.
- b. Weddings, funerals, coffee shops and happy hours are all places where Jesus is present

- c. We go wherever we are invited
- d. we go to be with people – especially people who may not know Jesus or follow him
- e. because then when something goes wrong, we are there to bring the presence of Jesus, the Lord of life, to bear**

And things will go wrong in life.

In our story, a social disaster happens!

Even worse than a guest wearing the same dress as the bride
– the hosts run out of wine!

This is the worst thing that could happen – it reflects badly on the young couple and their families.

and Mary takes up the cause with Jesus.

2. Take the matter to Jesus. Pray.

- a. No matter what the problem is, lay it out specifically in prayer.
- b. Tell Jesus what has happened
- c. Ask Jesus to act to put things right
- d. Don't presume to know what the solution is,
- e. But ask Jesus to restore life to the situation

3. Do whatever he tells you.

- a. Here we must be quiet and listen patiently
- b. What does God's Word say in relation to the matter?
- c. What is the Holy Spirit speaking in your soul?
- d. Where do you see God at work?
- e. What are you being prompted to do?

4. Trust God always to act toward eternal life.

- a. Wine for the wedding is temporary – but *Jesus* changing abundant water into abundant wine points us to him as the source of abundant, never-ending life
 - b. Where Jesus is, there is life – even in the midst of death.**
 - i. 2 patients suffer life-threatening illness.
 - 1. one is an atheist and the other a Christian
 - 2. the atheist lives each day in anger and fear;
 - 3. the Christian lives each day in confident hope and prayer
 - 4. both of them die
 - 5. the Christian enjoys the Easter life with Jesus, free from illness
 - 6. the atheist is utterly destroyed by death
 - ii. three men are hung on crosses – Jesus between two thieves
 - 1. one thief holds Jesus in contempt and dies alone
 - 2. the other thief recognizes Jesus as the source of life even in the midst of death – and dies to share the paradise of God with Jesus
 - c. Trust God always to choose life in its abundance.
- 5. Expect God always to give the best.**
- a. Socially, Jesus might have gotten away with the 1st c. equivalent of twist-off cheap wine.
 - b. But he gave the best wine straight from the Creator
 - c. Jesus himself is the best of God's love**
 - i. He is the innocent, unblemished Lamb of God, slain to take away the sins of the world – yours and mine
 - ii. He is the perfectly obedient Son of the Father, failing in nothing to accomplish God's will on earth as in heaven.
 - iii. Jesus is the consummate bridegroom who makes of his church a worthy Bride

**iv. Jesus is the embodiment of God's love which we
crave so deeply**

1. – love that cannot fail,
2. betray us,
3. or turn away from us when we become ugly and
blemished.

You were created for love.

God's love in Jesus

God's love through parents and family

God's love through friends and fellow believers

Today, Jesus gives us the wine of his own blood and the bread of his
own body in tender love and mercy toward us.

His love for us on the cross is transformed into abundant life for us, so
that we can make love, not war, in our daily lives.

I'm not talking sex and babies, but being fruitful in the love of Jesus that
multiplies in our relationships with others.

So:

- **Be where the action is.**
- **Take the matter to Jesus. Pray.**
- **Do whatever he tells you.**
- **Trust God always to act toward eternal life.**
- **Expect God always to give the best. Especially Jesus.**

You were created for God's love – in the Name of the Father and of the
+Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

SEE BONUS CONTENT BELOW

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__YMA8rwK5M

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2e9mMf7E8>