

HOMILY SECOND SUNDAY – ORDINARY TIME
January 14, 2007

Introduction:

It has become clearer and clearer that the principal theme of Jesus' preaching was the Reign of God, the New Creation or in the words He Himself gave us in the Lord's Prayer, the Kingdom of God.

He proclaimed it in so many ways:

"The Reign of God is at hand."

"The Reign of God is like – a mustard seed, a sower who goes out to sow, leaven, light, salt."

"You are not far from the Reign of God."

"How hard it is for a rich person to enter the Reign of God."

I

Jesus not only preached it. He modeled the Reign of God in dramatic and ordinary ways. He dramatically confronted the power structure of His time: "Woe to you Pharisees, blind guides..." – because they were acting in ways that went against God's dream for humanity, God's Reign.

On trial for his life He told the Roman governor of His country "you have authority over me only because it was given to you by God".

II

And in so many ordinary ways Jesus modeled the values of God's New Creation, like His action at the wedding feast of Cana in today's Gospel. We have examples of God's Kingdom values represented in this quite ordinary event.

The Kingdom value of Dignity: in providing more wine for their wedding reception, Jesus safeguarded the self-respect of a young couple.

The Kingdom value of Reconciliation: someone had miscalculated and almost caused a disastrous situation to happen; or perhaps too many guests showed up; or they drank too much. Jesus' action smoothed over what could have been a very divisive occurrence for the newlyweds.

The Kingdom value of Unity – Jesus may well have saved a marriage by His timely intervention.

The Kingdom value of Peace – He surely helped avoid the chaos that would have resulted had the wine actually run out.

The Kingdom value of Compassion/Mercy – thanks to His mother, Jesus finally took action to spare the young couple's embarrassment.

The Kingdom value of Justice and Charity – He supplied a need when it was most urgent.

III

Above all by performing this first miracle, as He said to His mother, before His time had come, Jesus acknowledged that the Kingdom value of Love supercedes all other considerations – even the timing of His public life.

Conclusion:

Imagine that young couple from Cana as they began to hear about Jesus' subsequent "track record" – as He proclaimed the Reign of God in myriad ways. They must have known exactly what he was talking about over the next three years. That is a lovely thought to contemplate – the ever-so-grateful couple who received the first benefits of Jesus' dedication to human dignity.

May we know what Jesus was talking about as well.