

WEEKLY SERMON

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They have no wine

As a rule, I tend towards a 'glass half empty' perspective towards things.

If I'm not careful, I can fall into a quite a bleak outlook on things even when they're going objectively quite well.

To compensate, I try to actively cultivate a 'glass half full' approach.

I want to be able to see the joy in the small things and to step back and see the bigger picture when those small things are harder to find.

You may see yourself as one or the other or think the whole thing is a lot of nonsense ... or you may even be attempting your own similar shift in perspective.

Something I think we all have in common at the moment though, in the difficult times we are living in, is how much we really have in the glass: next to nothing.

In fact, for most of us, the glass is not simply empty, but completely clean. The bottle is dry and the cellar only holds dust. In the circumstances, it's to be expected. Frankly, we're all probably too tired to be arguing 'pinging' between pessimism and optimism!

Mary's observation to Jesus during the wedding party at Cana could just as easily be said about us as it could be about the poor party hosts.

They no doubt resonate with the words of our own prayers at various points – not questions, not demands, simply: 'Lord, the glass is empty. I have nothing left.'

But all is not lost. As the miracle of Jesus at the wedding of Cana shows us, this emptiness is the precursor to transformation; a new beginning, abundance and celebration.

The jars filled with the richest and most delicious wine, enough for everyone and more, for the duration of the party and beyond. Goodness and joy (of a quality noticeable by even the drunkest reveller) surely sharpened by the contrast of the emptiness and absence that came before.

Our God, whose redemptive work transforms even the emptiest of circumstances into the most abundant grace will take our dry, barren jars, refresh them, fill them and transfigure them into vessels of his glory.

Our current emptiness will become God's future redemption. Our brokenness and tiredness will become immense jars of never-ending outpouring of joy, gift, life.

With Mary, we state our need and in Jesus, we await the fulfilment of all that is to come – in the meantime, let that hope top you up, at least to half-full.

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