

“...but you have kept the good wine until now.”

In the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Once upon a time, a woman set about re-decorating their home ...with the complete support of her husband. Things went quite well until ...out of the clear blue, her husband overruled her & the interior decorator and went ahead and hung a 20 x 30” picture of Jesus in the most prominent place in the home, on the mantle, over the living room fireplace!

The woman tried to get her husband to reconsider. Perhaps they could hang it in one of the bedrooms or at the head of their beautiful staircase. But, no! He absolutely refused to reconsider. Then, during a “discussion” with him, she recalled these words of Jesus:

**“Everyone who acknowledges me before others,
I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.”** Mt. 10:32

That settled it. Her husband had won!

NOW, years later ...she says she’s glad her husband ‘won,’ because she thinks that picture of Jesus over the fireplace has had a remarkable effect on her family—and on visitors.

For example, one day a stranger kept glancing at the picture. Finally, he turned and said,

“You know, that ‘Jesus’ doesn’t look at you; he looks right through you!”

For example, one night, a friend, sitting across from the picture said,

“I always feel so peaceful in your home.”

The picture’s most striking impact, however, is on conversations. Says the woman:

“It, inevitably, draws them to a ‘higher’ level.”

The woman confides that she knows people smile at her family and some even ridicule them for that picture, but she doesn’t care.

“This much I know,” she says.
“When you invite Jesus into your home, you’re never the same again.”

That young couple, about whom I just read to you from John’s Gospel, would wholeheartedly agree with that woman –though they lived millennia apart. They invited Jesus into their home, & he worked his first miracle there. And they were **‘never the same again.’**

You know, it’s probably no coincidence that the first miracle of Jesus, turning water into wine, foreshadowed the final miracle of Jesus, turning wine into his blood.

And it’s probably no coincidence that Jesus worked that miracle in someone’s home, too. Like the Cana-couple, we can be certain that family was **‘never the same again,’** either.

I would now like to share with you a little known, little-recognized fact about Jesus.

What, exactly, is that ‘little-known fact about Jesus,’ you ask?

Well, I am glad you asked that question!

The little-known, little-recognized fact about Jesus is ...how often he worked miracles in people's homes.

For example, when Peter first invited Jesus to his home, the first thing Jesus did was to cure Peter's mother-in-law from a mortal illness. *Mk.1:31*

For example, when Jairus, the synagogue official, invited Jesus to his home, the first thing Jesus did was to restore life to Jairus' daughter, who had just died. *Mk.5:41*

Neither Peter's family nor Jairus' family was **'ever-the-same-again.'**

For example, there was a leading Pharisee, who invited Jesus to his house for dinner. The first thing Jesus did was to cure a sick man at the house. *Lk. 14:4*

For example, who can possibly forget Zacchaeus, the cutthroat tax collector of Jericho, up in that Sycamore tree? Before that home-visit was over, Zacchaeus ended up giving half his belongings to the poor and paying-back, fourfold, those he had cheated. *Lk. 19:8*

And, finally, for example, there's that moving episode at Emmaus on Easter night. Two men invited Jesus to supper, although they didn't know it was he at the time. Jesus ended up celebrating with them the very first Eucharist since the Last Supper & the Resurrection.

These are just a few examples of how people invited Jesus into their homes and were...

'never-the-same-again.'

I share these examples with you because they lead us to ask ourselves:

"Have we ever, consciously, invited Jesus into our home in a practical way?"

For example, were an interior decorator to visit our home, would that person readily observe evidence on our walls that our family follows Jesus? Or, would that person say:

"I see your kids are big followers of Justin Bieber & Lady Gaga."

Inviting Jesus into our home...could be the most important thing we ever do.

And, the **way** we do it, can range all the way from concretizing Jesus' presence with a crucifix or picture... to praying reverently at all meals. Or, it can range all the way from treating each other with genuine love & respect... to never speaking ill of others.

Once we invite Jesus into our home, we can expect something special, for he never visits a home without doing something special.

This is one of the messages in today's Gospel. We all need to hear and take it to heart. It's a message that could change our family life.

In the words of the woman, who re-decorated her home:

"This much I know. When you invite Jesus into your home, you're "never-the same-again."

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him and he with me." *Rv. 3:20*

I now close with this prayer:

Lord Jesus, come into our home and bless it.

Bless the doors of our home. May they always be open to the stranger and the lonely.

Bless the rooms of our home. May they always be filled with your presence.

Above all, bless each member of our family.

May their minds be ever opened to your word; their hands be ever outstretched to the needy.

And, may their hearts be ever turned toward... you.

May Almighty God, our Abba, bless you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.