



# The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

## Lenten Meditations

### RENEWAL

**Read : John 2: 1-11**

Lent, the annual celebration of God's salvation history is a time of renewal. Fifty days of spiritual discipline will definitely help us to focus on the Cross of Christ and bring newness in our life. For a legitimate and relevant existence renewal is very essential. It can be the renewal of the quality or the state of being. The passage for today's reflection is recorded as the first sign of Jesus Christ. It is the miracle of transformation and new possibilities.

*"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him"*

*John 2:11*

#### **Renewal through realizing Christ and His presence**

The whole event in Cana is focused on Jesus Christ, his gift and glory. It is the real presence of Christ that brings transformation. Inviting Christ for the most joyous occasion and recognizing his presence in crucial moments of life is very important. We often seek Christ and his presence only in times of sorrow and sickness. Here the story is different. Life is very vulnerable; calamities can happen at any time. But the presence of Christ can bring renewal to both the situations and people. Paul says: 'if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation' (II Cor. 5: 17).

#### **Renewal through meaningful relationship**

In the whole incident we can see the presence and participation of so many people along with Jesus. Mary noticed the impending disaster and sought out Jesus in faith. She prepared the servants for a greater mission. The whole hearted obedience of the stewards turned the whole incident in a dramatic way. In bringing renewal, their presence, participation and relationship played a vital role. How is our presence and relationship in today's world? When we occupy with ourselves and our needs, we become selfish and complacent. Are we bringing positive transformation in our community through meaningful relationship?

#### **Renewal gives real joy of Life**

To run short of wine at a wedding feast would represent a social catastrophe that would severely damage a family's reputation for years. But towards the end of the story they are perplexed by the sudden appearance of wine of the best quality. When Jesus performed this miracle, ordinary water turned into a quality product. The extravagance of Jesus' act, the superabundance of the wine, suggests the unlimited gift that Jesus makes available in one's life. The real joy of celebration is retained through the intervention of Jesus. In today's world, where do we see real joy of life? Calamities can take away the joy of life's celebration. Jesus is the one who can renew our life and give the real joy of celebration.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to realize your presence and to keep meaningful relationships in life, so that we can be renewed and experience real joy of celebration. Amen

**Rev. K.E.Geevarghese, (Diocesan Secretary)**