

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 2

**Review:** John chapter 1 starts with Jesus as the Word. John wants us to know right away that Christ is eternal and that before he was born in Bethlehem and called Jesus, he existed before the creation as the Word. John writes that the Word created everything that was made and is equal with God and is God. He writes of John the Baptist. That John was a man sent from God to be the forerunner of Jesus Christ. John's ministry shook Israel up and the religious leaders wanted to know who he was. He told them he was not the Christ but that he was sent to prepare Israel to receive him. John recalled how that the Spirit descended and remained on Jesus the day he was baptized and that's how he knew he was the Son of God. The chapter closes with personal encounters of the Lord with various disciples. We see how Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathanael and John the author of this book came to meet Jesus.

**John 2:1-2** And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. *The third day here is measured from the calling of Philip and Nathanael. Cana is Nathanael's hometown and is less than 5 miles from Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus.*

**John 2:3-5** And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. *At a feast or celebration, it's always embarrassing to run out of food or drink. But in their culture, it was catastrophic! The people responsible for the wedding would've been publicly shamed and Mary was aware of this. She moved calmly and discreetly to her son and informed him of the situation. There is no disrespect to her by him calling her "woman" according to scholars. To paraphrase "What do you want me to do? It's not my time to go public about who I am." Even though he answered her in that fashion, she still had faith (expectation that he would help them) enough to go to the servants and give them the best advice ever: Do whatever he tells you to do.*

**Food for thought:** The Bible records this as the beginning of miracles that Jesus did so how did Mary know to go to him and expect him to do something miraculous? My personal belief is that Jesus did something as a child that manifested his power to them privately. Maybe Joseph was seriously injured or fell sick and was healed by Jesus. We don't know because it's not recorded BUT she had no doubt that he could turn this situation around quickly. She also knew the power of obedience.

**John 2:6-7** And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. *It's very important that we understand the purpose of the water pots. These pots are not meant to get water to drink. They are for religious ritual washing that the Jews observed from the tradition of the elders as though it was a God given commandment. Jesus never took part in that ritual and was condemned by the Pharisees because of it:* **Mark 7:1-3** Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. *A firkin is equivalent to 10.8 US gallons, so these are large waterpots that can hold a lot of water. Jesus could've provided the wine in any fashion he chose. There is a specific and spiritual reason he chose to provide it this way.*

**John 2:8-11** And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. *In Genesis, God's first dealings with man after the creation was to perform a wedding. Jesus's first work in ministry was at a wedding. Here is the spiritual picture we get from this occurrence:*

- **The six waterpots of stone** – The waterpots of stone are symbolic of the law. They are large and weighty and so is the law of God. God gave his law on tables of stone so that they would last and because the law is a burden to man because of sin. Six in the Bible is the number of man because man was created on the sixth day. The law was given to man and for man, but man could not keep the law because of sin.
- **The purifying of the Jews** – the Jews saw sin as an external problem which was the reason for all the “washings”. These are religious washings meant to make people “clean”. They didn't just wash their hands they ritually washed their plates, cups, tables etc. but Jesus turned the light on what the real problem was: **Mark 7:15-16** There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. *The washings had to be done over and over continuously like all religious works, but they never made the heart clean.*
- **Filling the waterpots** – Jesus didn't come to destroy the law but to fulfill it. He lived perfectly under the law and in agreement with it all his life. He fulfilled its

requirements. The law demands perfection and Jesus met that standard. We couldn't do it so he did it for us, and he did it as a man though he was God.

- **Drawing out wine** – Wine in scripture is symbolic of joy. Since Christ fulfilled the law and died in our place under it and was raised from the dead, we have been given the Holy Spirit which is the source of joy. Joy is one of the fruit of the Spirit. We have joy because our sins are forgiven and gone, we have eternal life, we're accepted by the Father and part of His family. We have joy because of the Spirit within and we have the Spirit because Christ fulfilled the law for us! **Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.
- **It satisfied the thirst - John 2:9-10** When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.
- **Only the servants that drew out the water knew** – Jesus solved the situation and satisfied his mother's request without going public. He concealed the miracle to stay true to his hour.

**John 2:12-17** After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days. And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. *The temple was a sacred place and sacred space because God set his name there and His presence would manifest in the holy of holies upon the mercy seat. These merchants were taking advantage of the all the traveling Jews that would be coming there from all over because it was Passover feast week. They knew they would need sacrifices, so they conveniently turned the courtyard of the temple into a cattle market. We also know it's human nature to raise the price when demand goes up. Jesus was greatly offended for his Father's sake and his statement revealed where he came from "make not my Father's house an house of merchandise". He forcefully drove them out and this incident caused his disciples to connect it with Psalm 69:9.*

**John 2:18-22** Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this

temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. *His actions and words got the attention of the Jews in Jerusalem. Jews need to see a sign, so they ask him for one. He then goes into word play with them by calling his body a temple. They thought he meant if the actual temple was destroyed, he would restore it in three days. What he actually was doing was giving them a concerning his death and resurrection. Now even his disciples really didn't understand what he meant when he said it, but after he arose from the dead, they made the connection. The human body is a temple because it houses the soul and spirit. The design of the temple is patterned after the human body because the outer court relates to the body because that's the part that meets the world. The sanctuary pertains to the soul because it has no outside light but is lit by the golden candlestick (type of the Spirit of God) and has the table of shewbread and golden altar of incense. The shewbread is a type of the word of God which is food to the soul and the golden altar of incense is a type of prayer and praise being offered up to God. The holy of holies pertains to the spirit because it's in complete darkness until the LORD moves in and it's the place where God dwells.*

**John 2:23-25** Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man. *The crowd's belief was based solely on miracles and signs, not on a deep, spiritual understanding of Jesus as their Messiah. He knew what was in their hearts and that their "belief" was fickle...so he didn't commit himself unto them. A crowd that only follows for miracles and signs will always demand more and fall away when they don't get them.*

**Tonight's application:** "When the simple becomes supernatural". When the servants did what Jesus told them to, a miracle occurred. The power of God worked in accordance with their simple obedience. This is what faith is! Faith is believing what God says and believing God will always move you to action. If you feel God is moving you to do something, even if it makes no logical sense, do it! Most of the time it may seem strange, but it will usually be simple. Before Lazarus was called out of the grave, he told them to take away the stone. Before a draught of fish was caught, Simon had to launch out into the deep and let down the nets. Before the man born blind was given his sight, he had to wash the clay out of his eyes in the pool of Siloam. Our simple obedience to God brings about miraculous results!