

“HE DWELT AMONG US”

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 3 Chapter 2

Jesus’ First Sign in Cana and First Ministry in Jerusalem

Jesus’ first miracle in the Gospel of John was turning water into wine. John used the word “signs” because he was seeking to draw attention away from the miracles as such and to point to their significance. His first miraculous deed was performed in response to a sudden *crisis* in the lives of simple country people at a wedding. Few even knew He had provided for their need. If you have a map at the back of your Bible, turn to it and find some of the places mentioned in **John 2:1-25**. Notice the distances between towns and understand that most travel was done on foot.

Jesus’ first official public act of ministry was to cleanse the temple, His Father’s house, of commercial activities which distracted from its true purpose.

DAY #1 **Read John 2:1-25** Pray before you start your lesson each day.

Read through a second time looking for all the important facts. It will be helpful to divide this chapter into the two main occurrences: “Wedding in Cana” (**verses 1-11**) and “Temple in Jerusalem” (**verses 12-25**). List the verses and facts under each division.

FACT FINDING HELPS When looking for the key facts, it is helpful to ask yourself the following questions. Remember, not every question will be answered in every passage. These are just guidelines.

1. Who are the persons mentioned and involved in this passage? Who is speaking? About whom is he speaking? Who is involved in the action?
2. What action or event is taking place?
3. Where is this happening? Where did they or will they go?
4. When did this happen? When will something happen?
5. Why did this happen?

WEDDING IN CANA OF GALILEE:

TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM:**DAY #2 Read John 2:1-11****MARRIAGE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES**

Marriage: Marriages were arranged by the young couples' fathers, often by the time boys and girls reached puberty (12 1/2 for a girl and 14 for a boy). Marriage was preceded by a year's betrothal before the actual wedding. The betrothal period was a more binding relationship than contemporary engagements. Couples were not permitted to have sexual relations during this time.

The Wedding: A wedding and the feast that accompanied it were a welcome bright spot from the daily grind in a world which generally lacked lavish entertainment and a variety of foods. Oxen and fat calves were killed and cooked. The festivities and feasting often lasted a week. First the bridegroom went to the bride's home to receive his bride and observe certain religious ceremonies. Then he took his bride to his own home for a resumption of the festivities. A special room in the bridegroom's house was prepared where the bride and bridesmaids (who also wore white) could spend the night. For people to refuse the invitation was unpardonable, as was the appearance of a guest without the appropriate festive clothing.

Digging Deeper(Optional) Jesus held weddings and marriage in high esteem. He used both in parables throughout the New Testament to teach spiritual truths. We, as believers, have a glorious wedding feast to look forward to in heaven. Read **Revelation 19:1-9** for some of the details.

At this time, the disciples who went with Jesus were just learning about Him. In comparison to the miracles they later saw Jesus perform, turning water into wine was not very difficult. But, it must have seemed amazing to them then, as it would to us had we been there. Jesus took something very ordinary and common and transformed it into something valuable and “good” (**verse 10**).

- 1) Jesus was on a mission, directly sent by God to save the lost. And yet, He took time to attend the festivities of a wedding with His mother. Was He taking time off? Share any thoughts or insights you might have on this.

“Miracles are not merely superhuman events, but events that demonstrate God’s power.”

- 2) Read **John 2:11**, and answer the following:

- A. What was manifested by this first miracle?

 - B. Look up in a dictionary the word *glory* and write out the definition that would apply as used in **verse 11** when it states, “His glory was revealed.”

 - C. The response of the disciples was, “they believed.” Write out and ponder the definition of believe.
-
- 3) Seeing Jesus provide for the need produced *faith and awe* in the disciples. The same should be true in us today. When we turn to the Lord for help, let us then turn to Him with thanks as He responds. When we continue to remember past help from the Lord, it reinforces our faith and trust in God's future help and provision in our lives. Share one or more answered prayers and how they are an encouragement to your faith. Then pause and thank Him.

DAY #3 Pray as you begin this day's lesson, and then read **John 2:12-13**.

The Passover was an important Jewish feast and holiday (Holy-day). It was celebrated once a year to remind them of God's grace in delivering them from the bondage in Egypt.

- 1) God used one final plague to force Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to release the Jews from slavery in Egypt. After reading **Exodus 12:3-13**, answer the following questions:
 - A. Describe the animal to be used (**verse 5**).

 - B. What were they to do with the blood? (**verse 7**)

 - C. Explain from **verses 12 and 13** why this feast was called “the Passover.”

- 2) Read **Exodus 12:29-37** and briefly summarize the “Exodus” (meaning exit).

- 3) Go back and read what John the Baptist called Jesus in **John 1:36**. How does the Passover lamb paint a picture of what Jesus has done for us?

- 4) Passover is an important event in Jewish history. In **Exodus 12:24-27**, they were instructed to take the time to remember it and teach their children about the deliverance God gave them.

- A. Why do you think this was important?

- B. Why do you think it is important for us to take the time to share with our children and those around us about the deliverance and victories the Lord has given us?

Day #4 Read John 2:14-17

As you look at the diagram at the left, you will see the Temple area. The temple courts refer to a large courtyard called the Court of the Gentiles which surrounded the temple enclosure. The buying and selling of animals in the outer area was probably rationalized as a convenience provided for those worshippers who had traveled long distances. They could buy the animals they needed for sacrifice after they arrived, but were charged inflated prices.

Temple dues had to be paid in a certain type of coin called Tyrian. Money changers were also in the outer courts. They took advantage of the people by charging unreasonably high rates to convert other currencies into Tyrian shekels.

**Illustration from The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

- 1) As you read **John 2:14-15**, imagine the scene that Jesus first saw as He entered the outer court. Instead of an atmosphere of reverence and awe, He found a hub-bub of activity. Picture a busy day at an outdoor market, with animals, manure, and vendors and bartering. People had come many miles to worship because of Passover, and yet they probably could barely squeeze in.
 - A. Whose house was the temple?

 - B. What had it become?

 - C. Why do you think that Jesus responded as He did?

- 2) Jesus purged the temple again later in His ministry. Read the account in **Matthew 21:12-13**. Judging from the title Jesus gave the temple, explain what should have been foremost in intent and action by all who entered? Also consider **Psalms 27:4** as you answer this question.

***Definition* Temple-**a sacred place, any place in which God dwells.

- 3) From the following passages, comment on the attitude we are to have as we enter the temple (presence) of God.

A. **Psalm 95:6**

B. **Psalm 99:1-3**

C. **Psalm 100:4-5**

- 4) *Today's English Version* phrases **John 2:17**, "*My devotion for Your house, O God, burns in Me like a fire.*" Is this your fervency? Should it be? Share your thoughts and heart on this.

Day #5 Pray as you begin this day's lesson, and then read **John 2:18-25**.

- 1) In **verse 18**, we see the Jewish leaders questioning the authority of Jesus just as they questioned John the Baptist in **John 1:19-25**. Why did they want to see a sign as evidence of His authority? Include in your answer the fact that even though Jesus provided many signs and miracles, many still did not believe.
- 2) Jesus knew that even though He would perform many wonderful miracles and healings, there would be many who would say it wasn't enough. They would still ask for one more convincing "sign." In **John 2:19-21**, what did Jesus cite as the one final "sign" that would validate who He was once and for all?
- 3) The reality that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive affects every aspect of our faith. If Jesus had not risen, He would be like Buddha and Mohammed. They are dead. **Jesus is alive!** From these passages, ponder and share how you benefit by the fact that Jesus is your ***LIVING SAVIOR***.

A. **I Corinthians 15:17-23**

B. **Hebrews 7:25**

C. **I Peter 1:3-4**

- 4) **In John 2:22**, what did the disciples remember and how did this affect them?
- 5) ***Optional Digging Deeper*** From **Luke 24:1-8**, recount how they were reminded of the prophecy that Jesus gave in **John 2:19**. ***Note*** This prophecy was also given by Jesus to the disciples while they were in Galilee.

***Definition* Prophecy**-the foretelling or prediction of what is to come.

Day #6 Read John 2:23-25

- 1) We will see in the Gospel of John that the popularity of Jesus varied according to whether the people liked or disliked what He said or did. Jesus chose to do right and please God *always*, no matter the response of others. Amy Carmichael was a devoted missionary to children in India. Read this powerful statement from her book *If*. Let us, as Christ's disciples, also be committed to acting and speaking in *true* love.

**“If I am afraid to speak the truth, lest I lose affection,
or lest the one concerned should say, 'You do not understand,'
or because I fear to lose my reputation for kindness;
if I put my own good name before the other's highest good,
then I know nothing of Calvary love.”**

- 2) Review **John, chapter 2**. Pray and ask the Lord to open your heart and mind to what He has to teach and how you can apply it to your life. As you ponder how to apply the lessons you learned in this chapter and also in the rest of the chapters of the Gospel of John, it will be helpful to consider the following questions:
 - A. Does this passage contain any commands for you to obey?
 - B. Is there a promise for *you* to claim?
 - C. Are there any instructions for *you* to follow?
 - D. Was sin revealed for *you* to confess and forsake?

Write out three personal applications in light of the instructions above.

1.

2.

3.

***AFTER GOING OVER YOUR APPLICATIONS, PRAY AND ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOU AND
HELP YOU TO GROW IN HIM.***