



Gospel According to **John**

Chapter Outline

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Christ: Beginning of His Ministry

John 2

Jesus Christ and the Wedding at Cana: *John 2:1-11*

Jesus Christ's Message to Mary: John 2:1-5

The events recorded at the beginning of this chapter took place three days after the meeting between Jesus and Nathanael. Mary the mother of Jesus was attending a wedding in Cana of Galilee, which was located about fifteen miles northwest of Tiberias and six miles northeast of Nazareth. It was Nathanael's place of residence and is no longer in existence. (John 21:2) Jewish weddings generally lasted seven days and were accompanied with great feasts and celebration. Jesus was invited to the wedding and He attended with His disciples, perhaps the five mentioned in the previous chapter. Jesus blessed the wedding with His presence and confirmed the institution of marriage. (Genesis 2:21-25)

A problem arose. The wine at the wedding feast, which had probably been going on for three or four days, was depleted. This was disastrous because the wedding hosts would be seen as inhospitable. Mary became aware of the problem and went to Jesus, perhaps believing He would remedy the situation. Mary knew Jesus was the Messiah and like many, may have hoped He would immediately establish His kingdom. (Luke 1:26-35) Mary was hasty and interfered with the problem, Jesus was well aware that the wine had run out. Based on His response, Mary's words appear to be a subtle request for His intervention.

Jesus addressed Mary as woman, a common word and not one necessarily associated with contempt. It was used to show her standing with other women; Mary was never exalted in the gospels. Jesus remained calm and was not disrespectful towards Mary. He questioned her actions, "What have I to do with thee?" This appears to be a reproof and was probably spoken with care. Jesus proceeded to remind her of His timing. It was not time to perform the miracle. Jesus never performed miracles based upon human relation. All was done according to God's glory. It was not time to establish His kingdom; that would be later, after He provided atonement for sin. Mary understood Jesus and was obedient. She ordered the servants to obey Jesus when He was ready to direct. Mary did not lose faith in Jesus and even prepared the servants to act by faith.

Jesus Christ's First Miracle: John 2:6-11

Jesus directed the servants to fill six water pots of stone with water. These water pots were commonly used to wash the hands and utensils before and after meals. They

Places of Interest

Cana – It was a village not far from Capernaum. Cana was Nathanael's place of residence and its exact location is unknown.

Capernaum – It was a city located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was where Jesus resided and where He performed many miracles. It was an influential city that had a synagogue and customs station. (Mark 1:21; Luke 4:33, 38; John 6:59; Matthew 9:9, 17, 24; Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27) The city is where the nobleman, a high-ranking official, resided. (John 4:46) It was probably the residence of the Jewish ruler Jairus. (Matthew 9:1,18)

were used only for water and were new to wine. Each water pot contained two or three firkins, a unit of measurement. According to Joseph Lange's calculations, based upon the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus, a firkin equaled 9 English gallons. So each pot was able to contain 18-27 gallons of water with the total being 108-162 gallons or an average of 135 gallons. The quantity produced probably exceeded the necessity, but God often gives more than what is required, because He is good. The servants filled the pots up to the brim with water. Neither Jesus nor His disciples helped, any deception or doubts were removed.

The water, turned to wine, was drawn and given to the governor of the feast. To his surprise the governor found good wine being served late. He complimented the

bridegroom on his choice to reverse the order of service. It displayed benevolence to continue throughout the feast with good wine. Usually the good wine was served first. This was often done due to financial consideration, as the seven-day celebration continued the inexpensive wine would replace the good wine. The word 'good' usually referred purely to the quality of taste. Because of our society's love for alcohol, 'good' is often associated with the wine's alcoholic content. Nowhere does the Bible indicate that this wedding feast was filled with drunkenness, to say so is pure speculation. There were two types of wines known to the ancients, unfermented and fermented. The words in the Bible for wine are generic terms. However, the Bible clearly indicates two different types of wine. A wine that is associated with joy and blessings, unfermented and sometimes called good or new. (Genesis 27:28; Numbers 18:12;

Deuteronomy 7:13; Psalm 104:14-15; Proverbs 3:10, 9:2; Joel 3:18) This wine was fresh from the grape and sweet to the taste. The ancients were able to preserve the fruit of the grape pure and without fermentation. There was also a wine associated with troubles and sorrows, it was fermented and often referred to as strong. (Deuteronomy 32:33; Proverbs 4:17, 20:1; Habakkuk 2:5, 15; Isaiah 5:22, 28:7) This wine was dangerous and the Bible warns against it. (Proverbs 23:29-35) It can be safely concluded that Jesus Christ would not produce a wine that is destructive to man.

Jesus Christ performed a real miracle at the wedding and displayed His divine power. The miracle was complete; the water became wine in substance and form. The water was instantly changed; Jesus did immediately what takes months to do naturally. The wine was tested and confirmed to be real. The miracle was done because Jesus Christ willed it to be done. Because of this astonishing miracle, His disciples believed on Him, convinced that He was Christ their faith was strengthened. Jesus performed no other miracle on earth before this one. He did not perform great miracles as a child, like some accounts would have us believe but waited and began His earthly ministry with a display of His divine power.

Passover Events

Celebrated in Abib or Nisan, our April

10 – the head of the house would choose a lamb of one year old from the flock. Exodus 12:1-6

14 – the lamb would be slain before the altar. Deuteronomy 16:2-6

14 – the Passover feast would take place.

15 – 21 – Feast of Unleavened Bread, during which time the people only ate unleavened bread. Exodus 12:18; Leviticus 23:6

Jesus Christ and the First Passover: *John 2:12-25*

Jesus Christ Cleansed the Temple: John 2:12-17

Jesus resided at Capernaum, which is believed to have been located about 14 or 15 miles from Galilee. (Matthew 4:13) After the wedding, He returned there with His family and disciples. He did not remain there long because He desired to attend the Passover in

Jerusalem. This was the first Passover He attended after He began His earthly ministry. The Passover was a memorial of the people being delivered from Egypt. (Exodus 12) It was celebrated for seven days in Abib or Nisan, our April.

Jesus went to Jerusalem and made His way to the Temple. There in the outer court He found people that made a business out of the things of God. Some sold sacrifices and had a lucrative business. Others were moneychangers preying upon foreigners exchanging money for Jewish currency. These acts cheapened the sacrifices and became distractions to those serious about worshipping God.

Jesus remained under control and took the time to make a scourge of small chords. Jesus then drove out the sheep and oxen. He proceeded to overthrow the moneychangers' tables and poured out their money. He finished by ordering the doves to be taken away. In all of this He did no real harm. The sheep and oxen could be herded, the money could be picked up and the doves were not released. It was an act of supreme power and authority. Though they greatly outnumbered Jesus, they obeyed and did not retaliate. They witnessed the power of God and were unable to fight back.

The Temple was no longer a place of pure worship and service to God. It became a place of merchandise and money that attracted men seeking worldly gain. It reminds one of all the organizations attempting to make money off of God's churches today. The worldliness found in the Temple led to Jesus Christ's reaction. (Psalm 69:9) He was greatly concerned with the way God was worshiped. The Temple, three years later, needed to be purified again. (Matthew 21:12) Men love darkness and often return to their sins. (John 3:19)

Jesus Christ Questioned by the Jews: John 2:18-25

The cleansing of the Temple was bold and made a great impact upon the people. They wanted to know His authority to act in such a way. If He were a prophet, who sent Him and provided His power? If He were from God, what proof did He have? Jesus answered by challenging them to destroy His body, God's dwelling place. (Colossians 2:9) The body is often referred to as the temple. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6:16) The Temple in Jerusalem was God's dwelling place but they had defiled the Temple. (2 Chronicles 36:15; Psalm 76:2) God dwelt fully in the body of Jesus Christ. (Colossians 2:9) They had aligned themselves against Jesus and He knew they would eventually end His life. Jesus stated that if He were killed, He would raise the temple, His body, in three days. This would prove His authority from God the Father and His deity. (Romans 1:4) They wanted a sign, His death, burial, and resurrection would be it.

Jesus was misunderstood; the Jews believed He referred to the Temple in Jerusalem. It was called the Second Temple and it was originally built after the Jews returned from captivity. Through the years it



fell into ruin. Herod the Great rebuilt the Temple in his eighteenth year of reign, sixteen years before Jesus Christ was born. The point of the Jews, how could Jesus finish in three days what took Herod the Great 46 years to accomplish? They were so consumed with their religious temple worship they missed the sign that would prove Him to be Christ. This misunderstanding would be recalled when looking for a reason to crucify Him. (Matthew 26:61; Mark 14:58) It was also used to mock Him while He hung on the cross. (Matthew 27:40) Later, His disciples understood His words. They continued in faith and eventually had understanding. Prophecies are often obscure when given but completely understood when fulfilled. It is important to continue to read and accept God's Word, even when it is not completely understood.

Jesus remained in Jerusalem and performed many miracles during the time of the feast. Many witnessed the miracles, which remained unrecorded, and believed in Him. (John 21:25) Jesus refused to commit Himself unto them. He was cautious and had no confidence and trust in the people. Jesus knew what was in men, how fickle they can be, praising one day and persecuting the next. He knew whether they believed in Him or in the works, if they trusted in salvation or were merely looking for entertainment. This was known because Jesus is Christ. He knew all things and it was not time for Him to die, not His hour. Jesus knew exactly what He was doing and was never caught unaware or surprised.

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