

Exegesis of John 2

Introductory Thoughts:

- I. Chapter 2 opens up the first of the Seven Signs of Jesus being the Messiah (v. 11).
- II. This is a central tenant of John's Gospel.
 - A. We must remember, John could have written anything and John could have recorded as many miracles as he could (20:30-31 and 21:25) but he specifically chose these events to point the reader to Jesus being THEE Messiah.
 - B. This is an important point because this sets the stage for how John's Gospel flows.
 1. That is, we must understand John's Gospel as not JUST an historical account of the life of Jesus but a theological argument and presentation of Jesus being the savior, the messiah, and the one who saves His children (1:12-13).
- III. A Clarification:
 - A. I have called this session through John's Gospel, "An exegetical pursuit to know the Savior" or something to that degree on our App.
 - B. While we will take things verse by verse and attempt to understand the theology and context, we ultimately want to see the big picture behind the set of verses, the section of verses, and the book as as whole.

Exegesis of John 2:1-25

- I. The Introduction of the Book of Signs
 - A. An Interesting Thought:
 1. If we retraced our steps from John 1:19-52, we would find four days have occurred in the historical aspect of John the Apostle's account.
 - a) The first day is John the Baptist's interrogation.
 - b) The second day John declares Jesus the Lamb of God.
 - c) The third day, the same thing, but disciples of John follow Jesus.
 - d) The fourth day, the conversation with Nathanael occurs.
 - e) Then, chapter 2 tells us that three days have passed.
 - f) We are on the seventh day according to John.
 2. Significance?
 - a) John 1:1-18 gives us the sense of a new creation of a sort through the Word bringing life to humanity.
 - b) This could be a subtle emphasis from the author regarding the narrative of the new wine at the Cana wedding.

B. The First Sign: Jesus Turns Water Into Wine (2:1-12)

1. Jesus Performs the Miracle.

- a) Interesting that Jesus seems to push back against his mother's pressures to do the action in providing wine.
- b) Why does Jesus do this?
 - (1) D.A. Carson in his Commentary on John suggests that Jesus speaks to Mary this way to purposefully though not unlovingly distance Himself from "family ties" as it were.
 - (2) That is, nobody but God the Father has an "in" with Jesus so as to suggest what He must do or ought to do.
 - (3) Jesus' will is only to the Father, and Jesus gently rebukes His mother in this regard; again, not unlovingly, but to show her that His ministry is now commencing.
 - (a) Note her response in v. 5, it is understanding and it is persevering in the faith of Jesus being who He is.

2. Symbolism.

- a) The lack of wine is not merely part of what is going on here but is representative of the Spiritual condition of humanity as well first-century Judaism.
- b) The good wine being brought by Jesus signifies His presence as the life bringer and the blessing of God, as wine is often a symbol of God's blessing (Proverbs 3:10).

3. Keep This In thought:

- a) Note verse 11.
 - (1) Jesus' acts are revelatory (They reveal something about Him)
 - (2) And people respond (The belief of the disciples)

C. Jesus Cleanses the Temple (2:13-22)

1. Theological, Not Historical.

- a) Notice something important here.
 - (1) Matthew, Mark, and Luke each tell us that Jesus cleanses the temple when He enters Jerusalem after the Triumphal Entry
 - (a) Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19.
 - (2) Why is John putting this late chronological aspect of Jesus' life way early in his gospel?

2. Gabriel's Thoughts:

- a) I think John includes this because he's making a theological point.

- b) The purpose of His coming is to die and resurrect for the glory of God (v. 11) and for the salvation of His people (1:12-13).
- c) Notice the disciples' reaction (v. 22)!
 - (1) Such a point is not given to us until much later in Luke's Gospel (Luke 24:44-49).
 - (2) John is continuing the purpose of his gospel before us through even this first sign and the temple cleansing.

II. Emphasis on Belief

- A. Two times we have seen the disciples react in specific ways (2:11 and 2:22).
- B. Only in the following section below will we understand what is going on and why these two verses are so important.

III. Jesus Knows the Heart (2:223-25)

- A. The Harsh Reality.
 - 1. Notice Jesus' reaction, though, to the people who believe in the other unmentioned signs in v. 23.
 - 2. Jesus did not "entrust Himself to them..." (v. 24).
 - 3. This is what it seems like.
 - a) The "belief" of these people is not the same belief as the disciples' belief.
 - 4. In other words, Jesus did not give to them the life He came to bring because their belief was not genuine.
 - a) This is not going to be the case for everyone in John's Gospel and clearly in the here and now and all that happened in between but this is a tough reality to face.

> Jesus knows our hearts and knows our belief—is it genuine?