

JOHN CHAPTER TWO
THE FIRST TWO MIRACLES
Take - a - ways

The wedding in Cana can be viewed as a picture of the nation of Israel
The wine had run out, the pots were empty
Israel was running on empty
Their “religion” was nothing more than a ritual - something they did out of habit
Yet their Messiah was in their midst - ready to fill them again
If they would just accept Him

What time is it?
The religious leadership told Jesus it took 46 years to build the Temple
The Temple expansion was begun in 20 BC
 $46 - 20 = 26 \text{ AD}$
Jesus was most likely born in 4 BC
Luke 3:23 says Jesus was about 30 when He began His ministry
 $26 \text{ AD} + 4 \text{ BC} = 30$
The year is probably 26 AD
Jesus will die probably in early 30 AD - at the age of 33+

The 6 waterpots would have contained about 20 gallons each
Was all the water turned into wine ?
Or
Only what was drawn out ?

Jesus always sees what is in the hearts of men
Nathaniel
The Samaritan woman
The Roman soldier whose daughter had died
But most of all the Jewish religious leadership

Next week we will meet Nicodemus
And Jesus saw what was in his heart, too

05-03 Lesson: Jesus's Early Ministry - Water to Wine & Temple Cleansing

Date Time: 2026-05-03 14:31:23

Location: First Baptist Church, Tallassee Alabama

Instructor: Sid Edwards

Summary

The lesson examines the first two major events in Jesus's early ministry in John chapter two: turning water into wine and cleansing the temple. It contrasts these events, identifying the water-to-wine as a miracle and the temple cleansing as a sign revealing Jesus's authority as the Son of God. It explains the historical and religious context of Passover, how corruption turned the temple into a marketplace, and Jesus's forceful response. It explores the reactions of the disciples and Jewish leaders, highlighting the leaders' blindness to Jesus's identity and their demand for a sign. It also addresses theological themes such as kinds of belief, faith versus religion, and the foreshadowing of Jesus's death and resurrection in his statement about destroying and rebuilding the temple in three days.

Knowledge Points

1. The First Miracles and Signs of Jesus's Ministry

- **The Miracle of Water to Wine**
 - The first of two miracles discussed, showcasing instant gratification compared to the slow process of winemaking.
 - An unusual aspect: Jesus did nothing overt—he didn't speak to the water, touch it, or use a gesture. He simply instructed the servants to fill the pots and draw from them. The miracle occurred by virtue of his presence.
- **The Cleansing of the Temple: A Sign of Authority**
 - Framed more as a sign than a miracle, occurring very early in Jesus's ministry (within the first two to three weeks).
 - The first sign directed at the Jewish leadership and all present in the temple, commanding their attention.
 - While the crowd followed Jesus seeking miracles, the Jewish religious leaders repeatedly demanded a sign to believe, a pattern continuing until the crucifixion.
 - Jesus achieved "instant gratification" by immediately cleansing his Father's house.

2. Context of the Passover and the Temple

- **The Journey to Jerusalem**
 - The narrative begins with Jesus and his first six disciples traveling to Jerusalem for Passover.

- The trip from Capernaum to Jerusalem was about 125 miles, taking roughly seven to ten days, following a 30-mile journey from Capernaum to Cana.
- **Required Jewish Feasts**
 - Jewish men were required to attend three major annual celebrations in Jerusalem:
 - **Passover:** Commemorated the night the death angel passed over homes protected by blood in Egypt. Passover lambs were slain on the 10th of Nisan (late March/early April).
 - **Feast of Weeks:** A spring festival celebrating the wheat harvest, akin to Thanksgiving.
 - **Feast of Tabernacles:** Celebrated Israel's wilderness journey.
- **Commercialization of the Temple**
 - The Old Testament calls it "the Passover of the Lord," while the New Testament refers to "the Passover of the Jews," indicating a shift away from God; their worship had become a heartless ritual.
 - Merchants sold sacrificial animals (oxen, sheep, doves) in the temple, turning convenience for travelers into profiteering.
 - Money changers exchanged various currencies for the temple tax. The mandated coinage was Tyrian silver, 97% pure sterling, exchanged at exorbitant rates.
 - Secular historians reported that animal noise disrupted worship and the courtyard resembled a carnival. Greed and commercialism dishonored God's temple.

3. Jesus's Actions and the Reactions

- **The Cleansing Event**
 - Angered by commercialization, Jesus made a scourge of cords and drove out the merchants and their animals (sheep and oxen).
 - He overturned money changers' tables, poured out their coins, and told dove sellers to stop making his "Father's house" a marketplace.
 - By saying "my Father's house," he asserted authority as the Son of God and Messiah. The event was swift and forceful, yet ended without riots or Roman intervention.
- **The Disciples' Reaction**
 - The disciples remembered Psalm 69:9: "Zeal for your house will consume me," written by David during persecution.
 - Some suggest the disciples feared persecution due to association with Jesus.
- **The Jewish Leadership's Reaction**
 - The Jewish leaders (likely Sanhedrin members) immediately questioned Jesus's authority: "What sign do you show us as your authority for doing these things?"
 - They were baffled by this dynamic figure and blind to his identity as the Messiah.
 - Throughout his ministry, they repeatedly demanded his authority and "one more sign."

4. Theological Implications and Teachings

• The “Destroy This Temple” Prophecy

- In response, Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- He spoke of the temple of his body, foretelling his crucifixion by them and his resurrection by the Holy Spirit’s power (Romans 8:11), later referencing this as the “sign of Jonah.”
- The Jews misunderstood, assuming he meant the physical temple, under construction for 46 years (Herod the Great began expanding it around 20 BC).

• Belief, Faith, and Commitment

- The lecture distinguishes “head knowledge” (viewing Jesus as a great man or healer) from “heart knowledge” (believing on him, trusting him with one’s life).
- Many who saw his signs in Jerusalem “believed in his name,” but their faith was superficial.
- Jesus did not entrust himself to them because he knew their hearts and the shallowness of their faith; he is omniscient and knows what is in man.
- With Jesus, belief precedes sight: you first believe, then he opens your spiritual eyes.

• Religion vs. Faith

- The cleansing highlighted the difference between man-made religion (designed to make people feel good) and faith (centered on God, often revealing how far we’ve fallen from his standard).
- Jesus desires a personal relationship with each individual, not merely a corporate one.

• The Cost of Cleansing

- The cleansing was costly for merchants who lost profits; likewise, salvation was costly, requiring Jesus’s death.
- At Jesus’s trial, the leaders could only recall and charge him with his statement about tearing down the temple.

5. Historical and Future Context of the Temple

• History of the Jerusalem Temple

- **First Temple:** Built by Solomon (c. 1000 BC), destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (c. 565 BC).
- **Second Temple:** Rebuilt by Zerubbabel; Herod the Great began a massive expansion around 20 BC that continued for decades. This temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.
- **The Wailing Wall:** The lower stones of today’s Wailing Wall are from the Herodian temple that Jesus cleansed.

• Future Third Temple

- The lecture notes biblical teaching that a third temple will be built in Jerusalem.
- It must exist near the end of the tribulation period, where the Antichrist will set himself up to be worshiped (the “abomination of desolation” mentioned by Daniel).
- Steve Rogers’s expertise is cited, including current Jewish efforts to excavate and stockpile materials for this future temple.

Next Arrangements

- Reflect on: When Jesus turned water into wine, did all 180 gallons in the six water pots become wine at once, or did it transform only as the servants drew it out?