

“The Beginning of Signs” John 2

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to John 2:1-12

Today we are going to see John’s account of the beginning of Jesus’s ministry. It really picks up right where we left off last week and goes right into His work of their coming Messiah. Before we jump into our study let us again familiarize ourselves with the purpose of John’s gospel...

John 20:30-31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

We have three things to look at today before communion so let’s jump right in...

John 2:1-2

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

Most likely this was three days after John told his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God and they followed Jesus. It is about a day or more travel by foot to Cana in the area of Galilee. We will find today that early on Jesus's family followed him but later in His ministry we will see that they did not believe in Him. It will not be until after the resurrection that they will come around. But before we move into this let us remember the details of a Jesus wedding in Galilee...

A betrothal period where the bridegroom goes to the father's house to prepare a place for them to live and consummate the marriage.

The bridegroom does not know the day of the wedding because it is only after the father agrees that the place that the bridegroom is preparing is done.

Often times the father would make the call in the middle of the night by a trumpet blast and tell his son to go get his bride and invite the guests.

I imagine that about the time of this call Jesus and His new disciples are entering Cana.

They would go to the wedding where the door is shut, and it would last typically seven days.

It was the family of the bridegroom that was supposed to supply enough food and wine for the guests for the entire time and to run out would be an embarrassment. This is why we have what comes next...

Jesus Turns the Water to Wine

John 2:3-10

Now the first thing we need to address is just because Jesus made this water to wine does not give Christians full reign to drink to their heart's content. For most people in this event this would be the only time all year they would drink. Drinking at a celebration and during harvest time in that culture was accepted and encouraged in the Bible. What has changed? We don't live in that culture anymore. Instead of being associated with the joy of the harvest and an annual celebration it is a scourge on our society. Drunkenness and debauchery are celebrated and encouraged. This is something the Bible calls sin and we must stay away from it. But there is some great application here that will be significant as we partake in communion today so let's look at that.

First, we see that the interaction with Jesus and His Mom. Why does she come to Him? Probably because she knew He was the Messiah and wine has a lot to do with the coming Messianic Kingdom. The thing that is important is Jesus's response to Mary by calling her "Women". This is not a disrespectful title but one of respect of a man to another women. But it does show that Jesus is now concerned about His mission and not family relations. We are introduced to the term "My hour has not yet come" We know when His hour will come...

Matthew 26:45

Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Also, we see Mary's command to the servants to do whatever He tells you. Mary has no authority as the Roman Catholics give here. As a matter of fact, this shows that she is committing all authority to Jesus. Let's remember that when tempted to listen to Catholic Dogma.

Second, notice what kind of pots Jesus uses for the miracle? These are the pots that hold the water made with the ashes of the Red Heifer! Go and look at Numbers 19 and see how it all

points to Jesus. One thing to remember that this would have been quite the chore. They did not have hoses and spickets and this would have been done by hand. Water weighs about 7 pounds per gallon.

Third, this miracle was one of creation that only God could do. And not only that we see that whatever God creates is always the best! This master of the feast would be equivalent to our best man at a wedding. Normally they would start to water down the wine as the feast went on to make it last all seven days, but this would be full strength and the best ever. But before we move on let us remember that as we partake of Communion as the bride of Christ, we too will one day be part of a wedding celebration...

Matthew 26:27-29

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

This is a Day we are all looking forward to!

John 2:11-12

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. 12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

John is letting us know that this is the beginning of signs that Jesus would perform to show that He is the Messiah. John will focus on only seven. He will tell us at the end of his gospel...

John 21:25

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

He heads to Capernaum which will be His base of operations. What it means by not many days is He will be going out in a circuit teaching in the cities and showing them that He is the Messiah. But in our next section you will see a pattern in John that is not the same as the other gospels. As the other three focus mainly on His Galilee ministry, John will focus on his ministry in Jerusalem. A matter-of-fact Chapters 11-20 are all his last weeks in Jerusalem.

Jesus Celebrates Passover

John 2:13-22

Now this is not the same cleansing of the temple as we see in the other three gospels. You can tell as they are different. In this one Jesus takes the time to make a whip of cords. I wonder what the disciples thought as he was doing that. You know wherever there is commerce there is trash like left over ropes from cargo and so on. I imagine that is where He started gathering it. Maybe they thought “Wow, He wants to clean up, isn’t that nice” No. They remembered...

Psalm 69:9a

Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up

It is interesting that this psalm speaks of Jesus’s suffering more than His zeal. Did you know there is such a thing as righteous anger?

Ephesians 4:26-27

“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

Notice it says, “Be Angry”. But the warning is not to sin with it. Don’t let it harbor to become wrath. Also, there is sinful anger

that we need to repent of. But God will judge the world one day, not in love but in anger...

Isaiah 13:9

Behold, the Day of the Lord comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.

It is OK to see sin and unrighteousness and be angry. But that anger should motivate us to love and good works. This is what we call “Zeal”. You see an injustice to God’s law and character, and you choose to say and do something about it. Later on, in Ephesians Paul will say...

Ephesians 5:11-13

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

This may not be our home, but the Bible doesn’t let us just pass through without doing anything.

Now, after He does this, we have His run in with the leaders we find in John. This will be a common theme in this gospel as John gives us a lot of dialogue with the Jews. But it is interesting that He uses the temple being destroyed and three days being risen up. They of course didn't understand this and said what they said. The 46 years referred to here is not the construction of the temple, but the remodeling done by Herod. This is the second temple built by Zerubbabel. But John points out that after He rose from the dead, they understood this scripture. What scripture? Not the sign of Jonah, that comes later.

Hosea 6:2

After two days He will revive us;
On the third day He will raise us up,
That we may live in His sight.

This, as many prophecies, are twofold. This is pointing to both the Messiah and the rebirth of Israel in the Millennium.

Finally...

John 2:23-25

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs

which He did. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

What is being said here is He did not commit them to make Him the King. We will get more on this in chapter six. But John does point out something to think about. Jesus in His humanity was still God the Son. He still possessed the ability to know what is in a man's heart. Only God can do that!

Jeremiah 17:9-10

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

Did you know that God knows your heart and loves you anyway? That is what the new covenant is all about. You are a sinner and Jesus died for your sins. He didn't see you all cleaned up and loved you. No, He saw your wicked heart and still loved you the same! That is what we celebrate today as we come to the table...

Communion

Luke 22:14-16

When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Luke 22:19

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

Luke 22:20

Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”