



The Dynamic Gospel Study Guide – Book of John

Chapter 2

1 Two days later, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was attending a wedding in the town of Cana along the Sea of Galilee.

2 Word was sent for Jesus to join them, along with His new students.

3 The party was lively and the wine was soon exhausted. Mary brought this to the attention of Jesus.

4 “Why do you bother Me about it?” Jesus asked his mother. “I’m just a guest here. It’s not My place or time to fix things - at least not yet.”

5 Mary had already made up her mind to be helpful and called the servants. “Just do what He tells you to do,” she said, nodding to Jesus.

6 In the kitchen were six large pots to be found, normally used for ritual cleansing when visitors would enter the house.

7 Jesus told the servants “Fill those pots with water.” They promptly did.

8 “Now,” Jesus continued, “fill up the serving pitchers and take them to the host of the party.”

9 Not knowing any better, the host tasted the new wine and was impressed. He called over to the bridegroom who was busy celebrating.

10 In front of the whole crowd he said “Everybody I know tries to impress with the first batch. Then they pawn off the cheap wine when the party’s really going. But I see You’ve saved the best for last!”

11 It was just the beginning of miracles from Jesus, and it started with a celebration. It was a fine example of His power to impress the people with generous gifts and made believers out of many.

12 When the party was over, Jesus and His students joined His mother and brothers for the journey down to Capernaum. They stayed together for a few days.

13 It wasn’t long till the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus set out for Jerusalem.

14 On approaching the Temple, Jesus found a stockyard full of second-hand oxen, sheep and doves being hawked for steep prices, with money changers forcing every buyer to pay their exorbitant exchange rates.

15 This incensed Jesus. He grabbed a handful of small cords and braided them into a short whip. Then He went on a rampage, clearing the square of all the greedy filth. Tables were overturned and the money scattered. Anyone who didn’t get out of the way got the business end of His whip.

16 He screamed at the crowd while chasing the pigeon sellers. “Get out of Our House, right now! You will not turn it into a tourist trap or a flea market! It will never be ‘home’ to the likes of you!”

17 Later when they thought about it, Jesus' students realized the scene was just like the ancient scripture that says, "He'll be fed up with the simmering stench that fills His house and in fevered passion He will do something about it."

18 The religious leaders and merchants kept their cool but they weren't about to let it go. "Since You seem so entitled to pass judgment, by what authority do You mess with us in God's Temple? Any sign You care to show that You have the right?"

19 Jesus looked around at them all and said, "Mess with **this** Temple, destroy it even, and in three days I'll show you a restored Temple overflowing with life."

20 The scoffing began, as the officials answered Jesus. "Oh, so it takes us forty-six years to erect this magnificent structure, and You think you can do better in three days?"

21 Jesus was referring to His own body as God's living Temple, but no one understood it at the time.

22 It became blazingly clear that this is what Jesus meant, once He physically rose from the dead. It made obvious the real meaning of the prophecies and proved that the words of Jesus were absolutely true.

23 The passion poured over into miracles, and all through the Passover week many were amazed and moved to believing faith when they saw the work of Jesus' hands.

24 All the adulation didn't go to Jesus' head, however, for He knew how easily men flatter

25 and deceive themselves that they deserved all this goodness. In spite of all the talk of 'new beginnings,' men were still as selfish and unyielding as ever, and Jesus knew it.

Explain the Context:

From your reading provide a short answer to the following:

What is the theme of this chapter?	What is the BIG Idea?
What is something that surprised you?	What is this chapter <i>not</i> saying?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) The miracle of The Wedding at Cana is Jesus's first recorded miracle. If this was his first miracle, how did his mother know he could do miracles?
- 2) What is the significance of Jesus using the "ritual cleansing" pots for this miracle?
- 3) How significant is it that Jesus' first miracle is at a wedding feast (celebration)?
- 4) What might the conversation have been like on the journey to Capernaum with Jesus mother and brothers?
- 5) What about the scene in the Temple incensed Jesus? How might we translate this to areas of injustice we see in our time?

Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

For further study:

- Ecclesiastes 3:1
- Matthew 12:46
- Psalm 69:8-9
- Luke 24:7-8