

John 2

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From the time that Jesus gathers the first four of His disciples, John, Andrew, Simon Peter, and Nathanael, and arrives at a wedding in Cana is about 3 days. The Chronology is difficult to determine which day started the 3 days, there are various attempts at determining that. Cana was about 30 miles from where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Cana is about 4 miles from where Jesus meets His fourth disciple Philip so the identified 3rd day may be from when Jesus left John the Baptist or it may be 3 days after meeting Philip, we are just not certain.

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

Actual weddings in Israel were somewhat spontaneous based on when the Groom's father decided when the bridal room the son had been working on was complete. Once the father tells the son construction is complete, a trumpet was blown in the village alerting the bride and her court that the groom was on his way to retrieve his bride.

There would be a wedding ceremony with close family, then a larger gathering called the wedding feast which is likely what Jesus and His disciples were invited to. The Biblical declaration is that we as Believers are invited to “Wedding Feast of the Lamb”.

Revelation 19: [7](#)Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. [8](#)And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

[9](#)And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

It is thought due to Mary’s involvement in this wedding in Cana that she was close to the family having the marriage and took on some responsibility for the plans at the wedding feast. The family apparently comes to Mary and asks about the wine that was to be served. It was customary to serve the higher quality wine first and the lesser quality wine later for obvious reasons.

[3](#)And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. [4](#)Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

The term “woman” when speaking to a close relative in today’s vernacular would be somewhat cold. In this time of Jesus, the term “woman” was revered as a sign of respect, but not necessarily to one’s mother. It is believed that Jesus was establishing a point of demarcation between His mother as (mom) and His position as the Savior of the World. Jesus did not love her less; He just established a new relationship, she in essence moved from the “mom” category to the “to be saved category”.

As parents and grandparents, it can be a painful moment when our children or grandchildren establish their individuality in their lives, it changes the relationship. It hurts, but it is the way our lives work.

Jesus also told her what she knew had to come someday. That day arrived but as His mother she still had sway with Jesus in the natural things of life. So, when “mom” asks something of her Son, in this case the Savior of the world, Jesus helps her.

The task was impossible in human experience; to come up with good wine when there was no wine left at all.

5His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*.

Mary knew exactly who her Son was and that He was going to save the world. Perhaps she knew He would possess miraculous power,

as He was the Son of God; regardless she had confidence in Him. She simply instructed His disciples who likely helped in serving to do whatever He said to do.

What were the disciples who had been with Jesus for maybe 3 days or a week thinking about this exchange between Mary and Jesus?

As we go through the next verses keep in mind several things. The Jews were obsessive by cleansing of the hands and feet according to the law. Large quantities of water would be needed as these wedding feast may go on for 7 days, so large water containers would be needed. Also, large quantities of wine would be needed, and the wine was usually provided by the groom's families.

Quality and quantity were both a sign of standing in the community. It would be tested by what they called the "governor" of the wedding. There apparently arose a problem within the Grooms family of not only quality of wine but also of quantity available. Also, as a note there have been a variety of calculations done on the quantity from a hundred gallons to several hundred gallons.

Many teach that Jewish tradition would say these large vessels were for purification and were not lower grade wine as some offer. Jesus specifically has them filled with water.

6And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. 7Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

This clears up one issue, the pots were likely empty from using the water for cleansing. Jesus told them to fill them up, so they were filled to the top of the brim with water.

8And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*.

Water went in and wine miraculously came out. Jesus is the Creator God, He can do that.

9When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

The person who ceremonially is in charge for overseeing the events was confused. The festivities had been going on for some time as the original quantity of wine had been used up. Obviously, the reason for the need for more wine was known by the Groom's family but not the Governor.

10And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now. 11This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana

of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

The disciples are starting down a path of Belief. For them it started with a declaration from John the Baptist, identifying Jesus as the Christ. They now see a miracle, the first of many accomplished by Jesus and their Belief starts to grow to the point that vs 11 said “and His disciples believed on him”.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

(Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48)

12After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

The distance is about 25 miles from Cana to Capernaum which is by the Sea of Galilee. The verse tells us that they did not spend many days in Capernaum.

Just a recap so far of verses till now.

- John the Baptist starts his mission of making straight the path or road for the coming Messiah.
- Jesus is identified as the Messiah by John the Baptist and is baptized by him.
- God sends a dove to land on Christ when He comes up out of the water at His Baptism and God speaks.

Matthew 3: [16](#)And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: [17](#)And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- When two of John the Baptist's disciples likely the Apostle John and Andrew hear John, the Baptist identify Jesus as Messiah they leave John the Baptist and follow Christ.
- Over the next few days, Jesus invites Andrew's brother Simon Peter and Nathanael to join Him along with John.
- The five of them go to a wedding in Cana where Jesus' mother asked her Son to supply wine for the wedding.
- Jesus miraculously turns water into the finest of wines creating His first of many miracles that accompany the Messiah and Savior of the World.
- All of them including Mary and Jesus' brothers travel to Capernaum for a short time.

[13](#)And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

On the eve of the Passover the head of each household would carefully remove all the leaven from the home. Leaven was a symbol of sin. The symbolism is based on the idea that sin once it enters a person it defiles the entire person or home just like leaven permeates the entire loaf of bread. So, by removing the leaven/sin

from the home it has been cleansed. Consider Jesus going to His Father's House "The Temple of God" and removing all the leaven from it as we read on.

This is what Jesus found inside the outer perimeter of the Temple, but still considered "in the temple" proper.

14And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: 15And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

The animals that were there were of course innocent but the people that had brought them into the temple for merchandising and were guilty of defiling the Temple proper.

16And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

The leaven had to be removed from the Father's home before Passover.

17And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

That is a reference to an Old Testament verses.

Psalm 69:9 because zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult You have fallen on

me.

Psalm 119:139 *My zeal has consumed me because my foes forget Your words.*

Jesus has righteous anger against those who would defile the Temple of God.

Q. Where is the Temple of God now?

1 Corinthians 3: 16 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

1 Corinthians 3:17 *If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

1 Corinthians 6:19 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

2 Corinthians 6:16 *What agreement can exist between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people."*

Ephesians 2:21 *In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

Do we harbor leaven/sin in our hearts today. Jesus wants it cleaned, purified from sin.

18Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

The selling of sacrifices in the temple's outer court had become a custom among the Jews. The Priests did not take things in control, and the practice festered in defiance of God's demand to keep the Temple Holy.

The Jews felt they had some right to figure out the authority of this man who drove them out and changing their custom, even though they had to know it was contrary to God's Holiness.

19Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Jesus's spiritual and physical answer to a worldly question. Remember John is writing this some 15 years after the destruction of the Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD. So, John the writer has some hindsight to draw from when he heard these words until he wrote the Book of John. We will see that more clearly in vs 21.

20Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

To try to put context as the year this happened in requires some effort. It is believed that Jesus was about 30 years old when this happened.

This from Barnes notes on the Bible:

“Forty and six years ... - The temple in which they then were was that which was commonly called "the second temple," built after the return of the Jews from Babylon. See the notes at [Matthew 21:12](#). This temple Herod the Great commenced repairing, or began to rebuild, in the eighteenth year of his reign - that is, sixteen years before the birth of Christ (Jos. 'Ant.,' b. xv. Section 1). The main body of the temple he completed in "nine years and a half" (Jos. 'Ant.,' xv. 5, 6), yet the temple, with its outbuildings, was not entirely complete in the time of our Saviour. Herod continued to ornament it and to perfect it even until the time of Agrippa (Jos. 'Ant.,' b. xx. chapter viii. Section 11). As Herod began to rebuild the temple sixteen years before the birth of Jesus, and as what is here mentioned happened in the thirtieth year of the age of Jesus, so the time which had been occupied in it was "forty-six years." This circumstance is one of the many in the New Testament which show the accuracy of the evangelists, and which prove that they were well acquainted with what they recorded. It demonstrates that their narration is true. Impostors do not trouble themselves to be very accurate about names and dates, and there is nothing in which they are more liable to make mistakes.

Wilt thou ... - This is an expression of contempt. Herod, with all his wealth and power, had been engaged in this work almost half a century. Can you, an obscure and unknown Galilean, accomplish it in three days? The thing, in their judgment, was ridiculous, and showed, as "they" supposed, that he had no authority to do what he had done in the temple.”

Of course, Jesus's answer went right over their heads, they had no idea with whom they were dealing. The disciples were just starting to understand very slightly to whom they were attached.

21But he spake of the temple of his body. 22When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Vs 21 is again John the Apostle with some personal history to draw from as he writes this account. God in His power was able to infuse into the writers of the Gospels and Books of the Bible a clear recollection of sometime long past.

This verse in fact was carried out exactly as Christ described it. It was His Body, the Temple of the Living God that would be destroyed and three days later raised up to glory IE rebuilt.

23Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast *day*, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

There is a point to these two verses that without some thought may escape a casual reader. John declares that there were miracles done in Jerusalem by Jesus at the time of this Passover. We are not told what miracles just that some people saw ***“miracles which He did.”***

This next verse tells us that “Jesus did not commit himself unto them because He knew all men”.

24But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all *men*, 25And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

Jesus knows the hearts of men, He knows without question those that love Him, He knows their strengths and weaknesses. He knows those that speak relationship with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him. So, knowing all of that, Jesus did not divulge His authority to them beyond what they could see.

It was a testing ground for the Apostles, they would learn, they would challenge, they would doubt, they would then understand and in the end they would commit. But at this point it was too early for Jesus to reveal to any of them who He really was and of what He was capable. It would take time, about 3 years for His disciples to grow into Apostles.

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