

Lesson 2
John 2:1 - 25

Learning about Jesus

Memory verse: “Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”” (John 2:19 NIV).

The first sub-section in the body of the Gospel of John (Jn 1: 19-51) contains the prelude to Jesus' public ministry. John highlighted John the Baptist's witness to Jesus' identity, first in a veiled manner and then openly. Then he recorded the response of some of John's disciples, which was to follow Jesus. Philip's witness resulted in Nathanael's declaration of faith in Jesus, limited as it may have been, and Jesus' claim to be the revealer of God and the way to God. The "greater things than these" that Jesus promised (Jn.1:50) follow, providing an even more solid foundation for faith in Him (cf. Jn 20:31).

The six disciples who now trusted Jesus started on their lifelong walk with Him and from the beginning began to learn more about Him. We who read the gospel record in its entirety are prone to take these events for granted, but to the disciples, each day and each new event brought marvels that were difficult to understand.

Chapter 2 of John's Gospel, records the early Galilean ministry of Jesus Christ. John's account of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry highlights the fact that Jesus replaced what was old with something new (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17). New wine replaced old water. Later a clean temple replaced a dirty one, a new birth replaced an old birth, living (flowing) water replaced well water, and new worship replaced old worship. The larger underlying theme continues to be the revelation of Jesus' identity.

“The third day” means three days after the call of Nathanael (John 1:45–51). Since that was the fourth day of the week recorded in John (John 1:19, 29, 35, 43), the wedding took place on “the seventh day” of this “new creation week.” Throughout his gospel, John makes it clear that Jesus was on a divine schedule, obeying the will of the Father.

The first miracle that Jesus performed (turning water to wine), in His public ministry and in John's Gospel, was semi-public. The word “Miracle” means an interference with Nature by supernatural power.

John mentioned that this miracle was a "sign." (Jn. 2:11). It was a miracle that had significance. Its significance appears to be that it showed that Jesus had the same power to create that God demonstrated in the Creation. Thus it pointed to Jesus being the Creator God who could transform things from one condition into another (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17).

If our Lord had preached a sermon after He turned the water into wine, what might He have said? For one thing, He likely would have told the people that the world's joy always runs out and cannot be regained, but the joy He gives is ever new and ever satisfying. (In the Scriptures, wine is a symbol of joy. See Judg. 9:13; Ps.104:15.) The world offers the best at the first, and then, once you are “hooked,” things start to get worse. But Jesus continues to offer that which is best until we one day enjoy the finest blessings in the eternal kingdom (Luke 22:18).

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-25

To learn in this lesson: 1) The Glory of Jesus 2) The Zeal of Jesus 3) The Knowledge of Jesus

Discussion Questions:

1) Go through Chapter 2:1-12 to discuss the event and John's revelation about the glory of Jesus Christ.

2) Chapter 2:12 – 22, points us to the zeal of Jesus. What can we learn from it?

3) What do we know about Jesus in vs 25 when John revealed that “he knew what was in each person.”?