

A Study of John's Gospel

Lesson 3: The Beginning Public Ministry of Jesus, Part 2 (2:1-25)

December 18, 2011

John records details of an eventful week- when men first recognized Jesus as the Messiah. The first eleven verses of chapter two seem to close out the week.

The "beginning of signs" (2:1-12)

John chooses to record Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine at a wedding. Jesus and His disciples were invited guests; His mother seems to already be there. The detail that John records of this event emphasizes the power and Divine nature of God's son. It was, no doubt, a miracle. A few days earlier, Jesus had mentioned to Nathanael that he would witness greater things (1:50). This incident in Cana was simply the beginning. His disciples believed in Jesus which confirms the purpose of John's writing (20:30-31).

Cleansing "My Father's house" (2:13-22)

It is not difficult to determine just when Jesus began His ministry. The Jews present when Jesus cleanses temple witnessed His passion as He demonstrates the authority given to Him by His Father. Jesus' disciples recalled Psalms 69:9, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up," after He threw out those who abused God's temple. It is interesting that Jesus' dialogue with the Jewish leaders concerning His actions ("Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up") will actually be used three years later to support false accusations in order to kill Him.

"He knew what was in man" (2:23-25)

Many believed when they witnessed Jesus' miraculous power but Jesus knew that men are fickle, even in their deepest conviction. He, therefore, did not have confidence in man's faith at this point.

Questions:

1. Mary seems to expect Jesus to do something about the problem of the wine depletion at the wedding in Cana. Did Mary know who Jesus was (see Luke 1 & 2, especially 2:19, 51)?
2. What did Jesus say to His mother when she told Him that they wedding party ran out of wine? How did Mary respond?
3. From verses 9-10, explain the two different points of view in witnessing the miracle; the master's of the feast and the servants'.
4. Was this the same "cleansing of the temple" recorded in Matthew 21, Mark 11 and Luke 19?
5. When Jesus said that the temple would be rebuilt in 3 days after it is destroyed, He was referring about His body. What did He mean? How does verse 22 seems to support John's purpose for writing this Gospel (20:30-31)?
6. What application can be made of verses 23-25 to our faith in Jesus today?