



September 27, 2015 | Jesus' Ministry Begins | John 2:1-25

[Q] Discuss: When was the last time you were at a wedding? What part did social customs play?

Read John 2:1-12. Jesus blesses with wine.

[Q] Jesus says that His "hour" or "time" has not yet come in verse 4. What insight does John 7:30 and John 17:1 give to this term?

[Q] This miracle, involving a large quantity and high quality wine, would have rich connotations for the Jews. What part does wine play and what sorts of things is it associated with in the following passages?

Isaiah 25:6-9

Joel 2:21-29

Amos 9:11-15

[Q] How might these Old Testament promises have affected the way people viewed Jesus (what He did and who He is) at the wedding?

How do the promises affect your view of Jesus? What aspects of His glory does this miracle reveal to you?

Signs – Miracles that attest to Jesus' identity as Messiah and Son of God and lead unbelievers to faith.

*Certainly the Christ who produced the abundance of wine, who oversupplied with the loaves and fishes, who said, "He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35) — certainly such a Christ is able to supply all your need "according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).
Pastor James M. Boice, *The Gospel of John: Vol. 1**

[Q] How have you been able to BLESS someone from the overflow of God's grace and mercy to you?
(BLESS: Begin to Pray. Listen. Eat. Serve. Share your Story.)

Read John 2:13-25. Jesus clears the Temple with a whip.

[Q] This is Jesus' first major confrontation with the Jewish leaders in John's Gospel. Why did Jesus clear the temple, in light of the true purpose of the temple? What does this scene teach us about Jesus?

[Q] How do Jesus' actions in verses 15-16 fit with today's popular view of Him as accepting and tolerant?

[Q] Read Jesus response to sign-seekers in Matthew 12:38-40. How is His answer similar to the John passage (John 2:18-19)? What is His focus?

[Q] Jesus' body is the true and better temple for God's people (v. 21). What does this mean for your life?
For help, see John 4:21-24 and Revelation 21:22.

Temple – A place set aside as holy because of God's presence there. Solomon built the first temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, to replace the portable tabernacle. This temple was later destroyed by the Babylonians, rebuilt, and destroyed again by the Romans.

[Q] What connection do you see between the summary comments in John 2:11 and 22 and John's purpose for his gospel in John 20:30-31?

Pray

Take it further: Skim through Solomon's temple dedication prayer in 2 Chron. 6:12-42. In what ways is Jesus the ultimate answer to this prayer?