

## **John 2**

1 - 2 Cana was four miles north of Nazareth. This was Nathaniel's hometown (John 21:2). The small villages probably had many acquaintances. Mary was invited and Jesus and his disciples. Although Jesus has not officially named the 12 yet, people recognize Him as a teacher with disciples. To not accept an invitation to the week long celebration would have been an insult.

3 Joseph seems to have died between Jesus twelfth year and this beginning of His ministry. Mary would normally turn to Jesus for a need, since he was now head of the home. She may not be asking for a miracle, but for help to find more wine. It was expected that the host of the wedding would provide and considered inhospitable to not do so.

4 What a puzzling answer. V.McGee believes she is asking Him to clear her name by performing a miracle. "Prove to the locals that you are not conceived by man." From McGee's perspective, He is saying He will clear her name in due time. Romans 1:4 The resurrection from the dead proved the miraculous conception. See John 7:6,30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1. From the beginning of Jesus ministry, He knew that his purpose and focus was the cross. That was His time.

5 She trusted Him to do things His way. Could a mother give any better advice? If you have a situation, do whatever Jesus tells you.

6 – 7 The Jews washed their hands ceremoniously to be cleansed from any defilement from the world (Mark 7:2-5). Each jar held 20-30 gallons. Jesus expected a miracle, so He asked to fill the jars to the rim. Faith expects and so asks for as much as can be obtained.

8 – 10 No special words, just an expression of faith. Jesus didn't look to see if it really happened. I think I would have. The MC asks the bridegroom why he had saved the best for the last days of the wedding. Usually the best is served first. Jesus didn't just make the water wine, He made it the best wine. Jesus didn't avoid customs and traditions of the day. It was there that he met the people to whom He shared His Gospel. Is Jesus' first miracle a representation of the Old Covenant having ended and the New and better Covenant having being served last?

11 Notice the miracle is a revealing of His glory. The disciples began to have faith in Him. Before this they were going on John's word. Yet, they will leave and return to their hometowns. He would call them again when He went to Capernaum.

12 Kapher Nahum – The city of Nahum became Jesus home after Nazareth rejected Him. During the beginning of Jesus' ministry His family was with Him.

Soon they would go their own way (Psalm 69:8) perhaps over their embarrassment of what was about to take place. They probably stayed in Peter's home, which has been discovered and fully excavated. The synagogue was about a block away. Its footings are still in place.

13 This is the first Passover of Jesus' ministry. He probably went yearly, but now He is attending as a Rabbi with disciples.

14 – 17 The priests could reject the sacrificial animals as blemished. Then the people would have to buy one from the merchants. The excavated homes of the priests are quite extravagant. There is some speculation that there was collaboration between priests and merchants to reject animals, purchase them at low prices, and then sell them as pre-approved at higher prices. The Temple tax had to be paid in a certain coinage. More Jews lived outside Israel than inside, so there was a great need for currency exchange. The real problem is that this is the court of prayer for the nations of the world. People are hawking their goods, making a short cut from one side of the city to the other, and the whole purpose for that court was for the nations of the world to pray. The Jews would never have allowed it in their worship area.

We can also look at the spiritual picture presented. The temple of the future was the heart of those who believe. As Jehovah was zealous for the heart of His people, so Christ is zealous to see our hearts free from the worship of Mammon – materialism (Psalm 69:9).

It is amazing that no one stopped Him! Perhaps the fire in His eyes gave them pause. He acted as if it was His house! It was!

18 What gave Him the authority to act like He owned the place? Who was He to demand anything? They believed a miracle would authenticate His mission was from God. Satan had tried to get Him to do the same thing (Matthew 4:1- 11). Jesus never did the miraculous at the demand of man or devil, but only in obedience to the Father.

19 – 22 The sign or proof of who He was is the defeat of death. It was the same sign mentioned earlier that would vindicate His mother. I don't know if Jesus purposely used an analogy that threw them off track, or if they just missed the point. (Matthew 27:63) It seems at least some of them understood what He was saying, but intentionally twisted it. They did destroy His temple, and He did raise it up.

23 – 25 He did do miracles at this first Temple visit (3:2). That resulted in many believers. We aren't told what they were, but most likely it was healing. Jesus did not tell people outright who He was. He knew man's heart and desire for a king, the focus on the earthly instead of the heavenly. (5:42; Matthew 10:17; Hebrews 4:13) Jesus had the wisdom to not say all that He knew, because He understood the heart of man. We should learn from His example.