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John 2

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

John 2.

Topics.

- Jesus turns water to wine at a wedding at Cana in Galilee.
- Jesus drives the money-changers out of the temple.
- Zeal for your House will consume me.
- Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
- Many believed in Jesus name when they saw the signs he was doing.

The previous chapter: the previous chapter begins by saying that the Word of God was with God from the beginning, John the Baptist appears as a voice crying in the wilderness and introduces Jesus the world as the Christ the Lamb of God and Jesus invites Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael to follow him.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

MARK 2:1-11

Jesus turns Water to Wine at a Wedding at Cana in Galilee.

- **John 2:1-11:** On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Cana: means reediness it is a place in Galilee and was the hometown of Nathanael (John 21:2) much of Jesus public ministry took place along the north shore of Galilee and many of Jesus disciples were from Galilee.

Wine: means, to effervesce, it refers to wine as fermented and used for banqueting, by implication it carries the idea of intoxication i.e. a winebibber.

Twenty or thirty gallons of water turned into wine: some teachers in Christian circles say that this wine would not be alcoholic, they reason that Jesus would not provide so much alcohol for people to drink, but drinking alcohol is not a sin, certainly the Bible clearly warns against drinking an excess of alcohol because of the things a person may do while heavily influenced by too much alcohol which they wouldn't do if they were in their right mind. If the twenty or thirty gallons is averaged out to 25 gallons which equals about 110 litres and it was estimated that each person drank 500mls (3 glasses) over the course of the day then there

would be approximately 220 people at the wedding. This is not an enormous number of people since during the time of Christ it was not uncommon to invite almost the entire village to a wedding of Israel.

NOTE: the words, "On the third day," (v1) Refer to the third day after the Pharisees came to John the Baptist to ask John if he was the Christ (see previous chapter).

THE STORY

While Mary and Jesus are attending a wedding of their friends Mary notices that they have run out of wine. It would be enormously embarrassing for the bridegroom and the bride to run out of wine for their guests at their own wedding feast. Mary understands this and even though Jesus has not done a miracle she seems to have confidence that he would somehow be able to provide more wine. Jesus seems almost reluctant to perform the miracle, maybe he didn't want to take the focus off the married couple since it was their precious day.

Jesus would know that if he did a spectacular miracle all eyes would suddenly be turned upon him and the conversation would be all about him, but being full of compassion and wisdom he solves the problem by turning the water to wine as discreetly as possible which protects the couple from embarrassment and stops the guests from suddenly focusing on him and robbing the couple from the joy of their day. It appears only the disciples realised that Jesus had turned the water to wine. This miracle manifested Christ's glory to them and caused them to believe on him (v11).

The symbolism's contained in the story: six is the number of man and the first man came from the dust of the earth (clay) thus the six clay jars of water can be seen as a symbol of people without the indwelling Holy Spirit, the jars are filled at the word of the Lord to overflowing and with the best wine, a symbol of a person being filled with joy and eternal life when they respond to the words of Christ i.e., the Good News of the Gospel. The master of the feast said:

- The bridegroom saved the best for last.

It is appropriate that this was the first miracle that Jesus did since the first wine can be seen as a symbol of the Old Covenant and the Law of Moses while the last wine (the best) can be viewed as a symbol of the New Covenant and Grace. The clay jars were emptied of the first wine symbolising the fact that the Old Covenant and the Law did not change or satisfy the human heart whereas filling the jars up with new wine (the best wine) symbolises the New Covenant and Grace i.e., believing the Good News of the Gospel of grace and accepting and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

MARK 2:12-17

Jesus drives the Money-Changers out of the Temple.

- **John 2:12-17:** After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days. ¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Capernaum: was a city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and Jesus headquarters for much of his public ministry and his place of abode several of his disciples were from here and many miracles were performed here.

THE STORY

Jesus goes to Jerusalem because the Passover is approaching, but when he visits the temple he is horrified, because certain men at the temple had made a business out of selling sacrificial animals. They had established this business so well that they even had money-changers available. Jesus full of fervour and passion for God's House makes a whip and drives the business men who are using God's House to make a profit from those coming to the temple to seek and worship God. The LORD'S House is a place of worship and not a place of business, money and profit.

The zeal for your House will consume me (v17), these words are cited from the following words of David:

- For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonour has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. *For zeal for your house has consumed me*, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me. (Psalm 69:7-9).

NOTE: though David is speaking of himself his words are at the same time echoing the Lord Jesus Christ.

MARK 2:18-22

Destroy this Temple, and in Three Days I will raise it Up.

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- **John 2:18-22:** So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he (Jesus Christ) was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Remember at this time Jesus to the Jews is just another common man off the street, who certainly has no priestly authority regarding the affairs of the Temple so when they see him drive out from the Temple those doing business they no-doubt wonder what gives him the authority to do such a thing so they ask him to give them a sign to authenticate himself, but Jesus instead of performing a miracle says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Even in this early period of Jesus ministry he is fully aware of the brutal torture and horrific death he is destined to suffer at the end of his ministry on earth. Jesus prophetic words, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Obviously refers to his own body, but by extension it embraces all those who belong to him since they are called the body of Christ and the temple of God, but we will have to wait longer than three days.

NOTICE: when Judas betrayed Jesus and he was taken before the Jewish council to be judged his false accusers accused him of saying that he would destroy the temple, but Jesus never said he would destroy it in fact the language implies that those asking him the question would destroy it which they did because of the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes prideful, hypocritical and self-serving ministry and the Jews denial of their Messiah the Christ.

MARK 2:23-25

Many believed in Jesus Name when they saw the Signs he was Doing.

- **John 2:23-25:** Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

The term "Many believed in his name" means they believe everything about that person (i.e. they believed Jesus was who he said he was), but that does not necessarily mean that they all had a repentant or changed heart we know this because in chapter six when he said to the Jews and his disciples:

- Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day because my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink and whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him (John 6:54-56).

Jesus in these words is saying, to be his disciple he must be pre-eminent in the heart, mind and life of those following him and they must be prepared to die for him if called to do so? When many of his disciples heard these words, they said:

- This is a hard saying (John 6:60).

And many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. (John 6:52-66) showing that seeing amazing signs and miracles does not necessarily change the heart of a person, they can be following the miracle worker simply because they are able to do spectacular things.

Jesus knew all people: the words, "Jesus did not entrust himself to them because he knew all people," (v24) means that Jesus knew humans are driven by self, ego, pride and greed etc., they will do whatever they need to do to protect themselves from harm, suffering and loss and do whatever is necessary to survive or gain rewards and benefits. Jesus knew that when it came to suffering or being persecuted for his name those who were following him would deny him when they were faced with persecution. We know Jesus fully understood the human condition because John later writes:

- Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him" (John 6:64).

Added to this John tells us that:

- Jesus did not need anyone to bear witness about man (v25).

This means that he did not need anyone to tell him what was within the human heart because he already knew (i.e., self, ego, pride greed etc.).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.