

John

Chapter 2

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Two

SUMMARY: Verses 1-25

1. Chapter 2 introduces us to Jesus' first miracle: turning water to wine while attending a wedding feast.
2. This is a beautiful lesson intertwining Jesus' humanity and deity. Hanging out at a wedding with ordinary people, subject to His mother's request shows His humanity. Linking the moment with His prophetic purpose (vs. 4) and turning the water into wine shows His deity.
3. Jesus is attending a wedding and they run short of wine. This was a major faux pas in that time. To run out was considered a social disgrace. This would haunt the married couple the rest of their life if such a failure occurred. This shows Jesus' willingness and ability to overcome the shame and disgrace of humanity's failures.
4. Mary asks Jesus to do something about the lack of wine. Perhaps if Jesus works a miracle it will vindicate, in her own mind and others, His true identity and divinity.
5. Mary gives great advice to any who are in a situation where failure looms imminent: "Whatever He says to you, do it!"
6. A miracle happens and water is turned into wine. In the bible water was a symbol of judgment. Yet, Jesus takes that which is a symbol of judgment and performs a miracle turning it to wine - which will later symbolize the atoning sacrifice of His blood. (Matthew 26:17-30)
7. The symbol behind this miracle: Jesus is God, He is divine, and His blood will triumph over the judgment of sin.
8. This miracle revealed that a new 'law' of God's kingdom had arrived. God was moving us from Levitical law of the O.T. into the law of the Spirit of life accomplished by Jesus' death and resurrection.
9. In the O.T. Moses turned water into blood (Exodus 7:14-24). This act was symbolic that the Law to be given through Moses would only result in death. But Jesus, bringing a new law, would turn water into wine symbolizing a new covenant that brings life.
10. The miracle happened on the 3rd day of the week (vs. 1) and it revealed Jesus' glory to those who saw it first hand. This is symbolic in nature for it foreshadows the miracle that will happen after 3 days in the grave that will reveal Jesus' glory to all those who believe.
11. After the wedding Jesus goes to Capernaum for a few days to celebrate the Passover. (A Jewish festival which celebrated the Hebrews deliverance from Egyptian bondage - Exodus 12.)
12. Next Jesus cleanses the temple. The outer court had been taken over by merchandisers during the festival and had spoiled the only place Gentiles could come and worship. In short, their greed took precedence over another's worship. Personal selfishness should never rob another of a place and opportunity to worship.
13. Jesus doesn't just cleanse the temple in a fit of rage. He takes time to make a whip of cords. In doing so He was illustrating that His will is conversion (water to wine) then cleansing (the temple of selfish greed). This gives us understanding of God's kingdom will: Conversion (salvation) + Cleansing (sanctification).
14. Jesus links the work of the temple to the heart of His Father. Worship should always lead us to the Father's heart and not just inspire us to religious duty.
15. Jesus gives us His first prophetic insight into His purpose for coming. He will die and be raised back to life again. The chapter concludes with more miracles that generated a group of believing followers.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. How do you think Mary (Jesus' mother) felt after watching Jesus perform His first miracle?
3. Have you ever had a time in your life where Jesus' grace overcame your failure or shame? What did you notice most that changed?
4. How do you deal with the advice: "Whatever He says to you, do it!" What are your struggles when facing a moment of obedience?
5. Why is cleansing just as important to Jesus as conversion?
6. How do you make your worship more about the Father's heart than religious duty?

