

JOHN 2 Study (NLT)

November 15, 2009

Vineyard Church • Great Falls • Montana

- **THE MAIN POINT:** 2:11-23 "The miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was Jesus' first display of his glory." "Because of these signs many people were convinced that he was indeed the Messiah." John picks seven miracles of the hundreds that Jesus did as signs - signs that pointed to Him as the King from heaven - bringing the Kingdom of God to earth.
- The turning of water into wine at the wedding in Cana demonstrated his power over nature. It also pointed to Him as the one whose ministry is like new wine - making possible the indwelling effervescent presence of the Holy Spirit - who makes all things new in a human soul. Whereas the stone jars of water represent the Old Testament where the commandments were written on stone tablets. Keeping the law was how people related to God. They did a ritual purification of themselves with water to wash away failures to keep the law.

1-V1-6 What happened at the wedding at Cana in Galilee? _____
_____ What did Jesus' mother ask him to do about it? _____
_____ What did Jesus do about it? _____

WEDDING - Christian life as happy. The marriage celebration is the happiest celebration on this earth. It is a picture of heaven and Christian life on earth. It is built around the love and joy in each other that the couple has. Their families and friends are caught up in it, and there is eating and drinking and music and beauty. This is a picture of the kind of life Jesus wants us to have today and forever. He said, "I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness." (John 10:10)

• The Kingdom of God is compared to a wedding feast. (Matthew 22:1-14) Jesus enters into His ministry blessing a marriage as a foretelling of the great wedding feast of the Lamb to come, when we would be His bride. (Revelation 19:7) The servants of Jesus in this life are trying to do one thing - "to betroth you (men, women and children) to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:2) There is no marriage and giving of marriage in heaven because we will be joined as a bride to one husband--Jesus Christ. (Matthew 22:30) Jesus speaks of himself as the bridegroom from heaven when asked why he and his disciples did not fast like the Jews and the followers of John the Baptist. "Should the wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom?" Matthew 9:14-15 The marriage of a man and woman is compared to the marriage of Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:32

2-V4 Jesus tells his mother that his _____ (the revelation of Himself as God the Son, the king from heaven) has not yet come.

MY TIME. The Father carefully orchestrated the life of Jesus on this earth--that Jesus came in "the fullness of time" and everything that He did would contribute to a perfect salvation

for all who would have it. For Jesus to do a miracle at this time was premature. However, the Lord honors His mother and does what she wants. This is what PRAYER IS ABOUT. The Lord is a person. He is swayed by the entreaties of those who love Him and ask. Abraham, Moses, and Hezekiah, for example, all changed God's mind. (Genesis 18; Deut. 9:13-19; I Kings 20) The Lord told Jeremiah to stop praying for Israel because the Lord did not want to heed his intercessions.

3-V6 What did Jesus make the wine from? _____

SIX WATERPOTS. There is an underlying teaching here. These water pots represent the Old Testament religion where people were cleansed superficially from sin by ritual washing of hands and body and also by outward obedience to the laws of God. SIX is one less than Seven. Seven is the number for completeness. The washings and efforts of humanity to be clean always fall short of perfection. Unless we are perfect we shall perish. "For whoever shall keep the whole law and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10 Only Jesus in us--crucifying the old sinner we are--and replacing it with the new man He is gives us a clean conscience because we have become a different person. (Hebrews 9:14; Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 1:29)

4-V7 Jesus, following a typical pattern of miracle working, tells them to do something that seems foolish. It was _____. In obediently doing what the Lord says, even if it makes no sense to us, miracles happen.

FILL WITH WATER. It is the act of obedience -- acting on His Word (which is what faith is) that causes the miracle to happen. Naaman was cured of leprosy by washing in the Jordan. Naaman objected but some of his officers told him that he should just do the simple thing the prophet asked him to do. (2 Kings 5:13) The waters of the Jordan opened only when Israel stepped into the raging torrent. (Joshua 3:13) The paralyzed man had to pick up his bed and walk. He could have said, "Lord, I'm crippled." (Mark 2:11) When Jesus told the disciples to cast their nets out another time to get the fish, Peter objected, but said, "Lord, **at your word**, I will let down the net." (Luke 5:5)

5-V13-17 What upset Jesus when he went into the Temple of God in Jerusalem? _____
_____ What did he do about it? _____
_____ The disciples said that the reason Jesus did this was because "_____ for God's _____ burns within me."

THE HEBREW TEMPLE was built like boxes within boxes. The

centermost area was the Holy of Holies where a lamb was slain once a year. The 2nd area was reserved for priests. The 3rd area out was reserved for Hebrew men. Non-Hebrew people seeking to know the true God were allowed to approach God in the 4th area/courtyard, like Cornelius (Acts 10) and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-39). It was called the courtyard of the gentiles (non-Jews). It was in this area that the money changing and barnyard atmosphere of animals being sold for sacrifices was being done. These God seeking men could hardly pray in this atmosphere. This was supposed to be a "house of prayer for all nations." (Mark 11:17) (Isaiah 56:7)

6-V19 Jesus now says something that his disciples would not understand until after His resurrection. He said, "*Destroy this _____, (referring to his physical body dying on the cross) and in _____ I will raise it up.*" (referring to his resurrection.)

THE BODY - THE TEMPLE OF GOD. The Lord wants to live in "temples not made with (human) hands." (Acts 17:24) He wants to live in human hearts. When we receive Christ into our hearts, His spiritual presence indwells us. "*Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you.*" (1 Corinthians 6:19) Jesus went to heaven to prepare a mansion for us. (John 14:1-3) This is not a house of wood and brick and such, it is a glorified body suitable to be married to Him and live eternally in heaven. See 2 Corinthians 5:1-7 to substantiate this.

What does this Scripture say to you?_____