

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little.

Isaiah 28:10

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #190

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

PART 4: CHAPTER 2, VERSES 1-25

REVIEW OF CHAPTER 1

1. What is the Gospel and which are the Synoptic Gospels?
2. Who were John's (the Apostle) parents?
3. What parts of the Bible are attributed to John?
4. What is the difference between Rhema and Logos and which does John emphasize?
5. What is the general theme of the Gospel of John?
6. Read Psalm 138:2b and explain.
7. According to Jesus, which prophecy did John the Baptist fulfill?
8. Which disciple was the first to evangelize or bring someone to Christ?
9. Which disciple is also known as Cephas?
10. What is Nathanael called in the other Gospels?

JOHN CHAPTER 2

1-Now the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there.

2-And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3-And when they lacked wine, the mother of Jesus said unto Him, They have no wine.

*4-Jesus said unto her, **Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.***

5-His mother said unto the servants, Whatever He says unto you, do it.

6-And there were set there six water pots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

*7-Jesus said unto them, **Fill the water pots with water.** And they filled them up to the brim.*

*8-And He said unto them, **Draw some out now and bear it unto the governor of the feast.** And they bore it.*

9-When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine and knew not from where it was (but the servants who drew the water knew), the governor of the feast called the bridegroom.

10-And said unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11-This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him.

12-After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brethren and His disciples, and they continued there not many days.

13-And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14-And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves and the changers of money, sitting.

15-And when He had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple and the sheep and the oxen and poured out the changers' money and overthrew the tables;

16-And said unto them that sold doves, *Take these things from here; make not My Father's house a house of merchandise.*

17-And His disciples remembered that it was written, *The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.*

18-Then answered the Jews and said unto Him, *What sign showeth thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?*

19-Jesus answered and said unto them, *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*

20-Then said the Jews, *Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou raise it up in three days?*

21-But He spoke of the temple of His body.

22-When, therefore, He was risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

23-Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in His name, when they saw the miracles which He did.

24-But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew all men;

25-And needed not that any should testify of men; for He knew what was in men.

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THE MARRIAGE OF THE WEDDING AT CANA IN GALILEE

1-2-This was the third day from the time that Jesus left Jordan. The Jews did not have weddings on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. My guess would be that these were not held because they observed the Sabbath from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown, thus knocking out Friday and Saturday, and then Sunday would have been a day of preparation for a wedding festival the following day. This particular wedding must have been on Wednesday. It was Jewish tradition that "maids", i.e. never-before-married virgins, were married on Wednesdays. The marriages of widows or divorcees took place on Thursdays. Some have speculated

that the bridegroom was Nathanael, known as Bartholomew (son of Tholomew) in the synoptic Gospels, since he was from Cana. Cana was about 7 miles north of Nazareth.

There is some speculation that Mary was a relative of the individuals getting married. That is why she was free to order the servants to do whatever Jesus said to do.

3-Generally wine in the scripture is symbolic of joy. The wedding party's running out of wine thus is symbolic of the spiritual condition of the Jews (or Church) of that day. Wine is symbolic of joy and God's blessing, but the scripture is quick to condemn drunkenness. Mary is perhaps reminding Jesus that these are poor people and running out of refreshments at the wedding would be an embarrassment to them. J. Vernon McGee believes that Mary was saying, "Here is Your opportunity to perform a miracle and demonstrate that I am accurate when I said that You were virgin born and that You are the One whom I have claimed You are."

4-Woman in that day was a term of respect like we would say, "Ma am." Mary is never called by her given name in this Gospel. Perhaps John, being the youngest disciple, did not think it would be respectful to call Mary by her first name even in writing.

Perhaps Jesus was delaying this miracle so that all the wine would be exhausted and thus the servants would know without any doubt that this really was a miracle being performed.

Again McGee feels that Jesus' answer to Mary was to say, "This is not the occasion. I will clear our name, but not here." He does the miracle in deference to His mother, but He is saying that only His death and resurrection will clear her name and make people know that He is who He says He is.

5- "Whatever he saith unto you, do it." These are the last recorded words of Mary. What a testimony these words are! If we would follow this example without hesitation, we would see wonderful things take place.

6-10-A firkin is about 9 gallons. Therefore, each water pot was about 27 gallons. This is close to the 30 gallon barrels we see today, which are generally used as outdoor trash cans in parks and public places. Two or three firkins seems to indicate that there will be two thousand years of

Church Age, followed by a thousand year reign during the Kingdom Age. If so, we are presently awaiting the final fulfillment of the prophecy of the Second Coming. We have entered the third millennium since the First Advent. The great heavenly Marriage Supper of the Lamb may soon occur.

These water pots were filled with water and used to ceremonially clean one self. The water represents the Word of God, and the pots the earthen vessels or our bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit. When we are full of the Word, we are able to pour forth joy on those around us. Many believe the 6 water pots represent 6000 years of human history (remember the seven cows and seven ears of corn in Pharaoh's dream that represented time as well). In the seventh millennium there will be a marriage, Revelation 19 tell us, the "marriage supper of the Lamb" and the establishment of a new Temple, where Christ will reign upon the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Therefore, both of these main events in John 2 are really connected prophetically.

Amazingly, everyone seems to be mentioned in this story except the bride. We are the Bride of Christ. One day the Bride will have made Herself ready, and the Bridegroom will come.

11-The Greek word for *miracle* in this verse is *semeion*, which means a sign or token by which something is known; a token of confirmation of a divine work or call. It is translated, according to Finis Dakes, *sign* 50 times; *miracle* 23 times; *wonder* 3 times, and *token* 1 time. Generally, it is used of miracles and wonders wrought by men to confirm their call and mission from God. The purpose of all true miracles is to manifest the Glory of Jesus.

This verse refutes the claims of the authenticity of some of the "lost" books of the Bible or the Apocryphal gospels, universally excluded from scripture because of their inconsistencies and absurdities. To give one example, Jesus as a young boy makes clay pigeons that become alive and fly off.

12-Capernaum near the plain of Gennesaret served as the center of Jesus' activity during a large part of his public ministry. It was also referred to as his home (Matthew 4:13 and Mark 2:1). Capernaum was a customs station and this where Matthew, the tax collector, was summoned to be a disciple. It also was probably a place where there was a detachment of Roman soldiers since the local synagogue is said to have been built by a centurion (Luke 7:1-5). In spite of having the opportunity to see many of

the great miracles of Jesus, Capernaum was unimpressed. Jesus said of this town, "And thou, Capernaum, which are exalted unto heaven, shall be brought down to hell; for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee. (Matthew 11:23-24)

THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

The story of Jesus and the Money Changers is found in all four Gospels. It occurs near the end of the Synoptic Gospels, but near the start of the Gospel of John. Many Bible scholars believe that there were two separate incidents of this with John writing of one and Matthew, Luke and John writing of the other.

13-All Jewish males were required to go to Jerusalem three times a year, at the time of the Feast of Passover, at the Feast of Pentecost, and at the Feast of Tabernacles. I believe that Passover is symbolic of salvation or being born again, Pentecost is symbolic of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, and Tabernacles is symbolic of the Coming of Jesus at the end of the age.

14-16-There is plenty of evidence, from early Jewish writings, that the Temple, in Jesus' day, was being turned into a marketplace. The moneychangers were robbing the people, and those selling animals used in Temple sacrifice were charging excessive amounts. Even the high priests seemed to be more interested in making money than worshipping God. Annas, the High priest whom Jesus was brought before, and his 5 sons who succeeded him, were especially known for turning the Temple into a Marketplace. Josephus wrote of one member of this family, Annas the younger, who had James, the writer of the book of James, stoned to death: *The high priest, Ananus...loved to hoard money. He became good friends with Albinus, and of the newly installed high priest. He did so by offering them bribes; he also had wicked servants, who associated with the most vilest sort of characters and went to the thrashing-floors, and took the tithes that belonged to the priests by force, and beat anyone who would not give these tithes to them. So the other high priests that followed him as well as his servants acted likewise without anyone being able to stop them; so that some of the priests, those who were old and were being supported with those tithes, died for lack of food."*

Josephus tells us that 256,500 were sacrificed each Passover, and the priests sold licenses to the vendors, so this was very profitable to the priests as well as the vendors. These dealers were very unpopular with the people because of their extortion, and they probably knew enough scripture to know they were profaning the temple and violating the law, but the priests looked the other way because they were getting rich too.

What does God think of the prosperity Gospel? *If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of financial gain. From such withdraw yourself. Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.* 1st Timothy 6:3-8

17-This comes from Psalm 69:9.

18-22-The sign to the Jews would be the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

The Temple at that time was Herod's Temple. He torn down Zerubbabel's temple in 20 BC to make it larger. A more correct rending of this verse might be that the Temple proper was built 46 years ago from this time in verse 20. The larger temple area was not finished until 66 AD.

23-25-The people believed because of the miracles. One purpose of miracles is to win the lost.

Jesus was fully human but also fully God. As the God-man, He had the Spirit without Measure. Jesus operated in every one of the gifts of the spirit, except maybe speaking in tongues. We are not sure that He did not speak in tongues because scripture records that He rejoiced in the Spirit (Luke 10:21) and that He groaned in the Spirit (John 11:33) If He did not speak in tongues, it was probably because He did not need this gift because He, being God, already knew all languages including the tongues of angels, and because, since He was perfect, He had perfect communication with the Father. At any rate He approved of speaking in tongues and said that tongues would be sign that followed believers (Mark 16:17). But besides tongues, it is clear He used every other gift. In these last verses of John 2, He is operating in Words of Knowledge and Discernment.