

The Gospel of John: Chapter 2

(Notes and handouts posted at <http://www.therulingelder.com>)

Outline of the Chapter:

1. The Wedding (v. 1-11)
 - a. It's location: Cana of Galilee
 - b. It's guests: Jesus, his mother, his disciples
 - i. Probable that the people getting married were related to Jesus, or close friends, as Mary seems to be helping in some official capacity.
 - c. The Interaction between Jesus and Mary
 - i. Mary's "request" (v. 3): "They have no wine"
 1. Perhaps she wanted Jesus to do something other than a miracle (He had, as yet, not done public miracles--see verse 11)
 - ii. Jesus' response (v. 4):
 1. Woman: A title of respect. Jesus addressed females with this title often.
 - a. **Matthew 15:28** (the Gentile woman whose daughter was demon possessed); **Luke 13:12** (When Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath); **John 4:21** (To the Samaritan woman at the well); **John 8:10** (To the woman caught in adultery); **John 19:26** (His mother while He is on the cross. Note: The first thing that John records Jesus saying to Mary and the last begin with "Woman".); **John 20:15** (Mary Magdalene after the resurrection)
2. What does your concern have to do with me?
 - a. Jesus is both God and man.
 - i. In regard to his humanity, He honored His parents
 - ii. In regard to His divinity, He was not subject to His earthly parents
 1. Remember when He was in the Temple as a child in Luke 2, especially verse 49.
 - iii. Note: This interaction teaches us that we have one mediator between God and men: Jesus Christ. Mary has no more power over Jesus now than she did at that wedding feast.
3. My hour is not yet come
 - a. The time of His suffering and subsequent resurrection
 - i. John 12:27
 - b. The time of His public ministry
 - c. The time to reveal Himself to the world

- iii. Mary's Response: Faith (v. 5)
 - iv. The miracle (v. 6-10)
 - 1. The pots used for ceremonial washings
 - a. 20-30 gallons each. 120-130 gallons of wine.
 - 2. The water changed
 - a. Note the gracious nature of our Lord: The bride and groom were, evidently, not well off. They could not afford to provide enough wine for their own wedding feast. Jesus not only provides what they need, but enough that this newlywed couple probably could have sold the excess and lived off the money for quite some time!
 - 3. The significance:
 - a. All things are made new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - b. Christ is the fulfillment of the Law (Romans 4:10)
 - v. The response of the people
 - vi. John's commentary (v. 11)
 - 1. Remember John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, **and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father**, full of grace and truth."
 - 2. John again drives home his main argument of the book: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (**John 20:31**).
 - vii. Literary notes
 - 1. John 1:17, "For the law was given to Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."
 - 2. The turning of water into wine is a sign that will be fully explained in the Last Supper where the wine of the passover celebration points to the shed blood of Christ.
2. The Cleansing (v. 12-23)
- a. Jesus, in accordance with the Law, had gone to Jerusalem for Passover every year (Luke 2:41)
 - b. Merchants in the Temple
 - i. They were selling the animals that were acceptable to sacrifice in the Temple
 - ii. They were exchanging money that had an image of Caesar for money that was acceptable in the Temple
 - iii. These activities were happening in the court of the Gentiles.
 - c. This cleansing fulfills the prophecy of Malachi 3:1-4
 - d. "His disciples remembered..." (v. 17)
 - i. Again, note His disciples familiarity with the Old Testament.
 - e. What sign? (v. 18)
 - i. The Jews (the sanhedrin or their representatives) demand a sign
 - ii. Note: They cannot openly object to the driving out of the merchants, because it was so obviously an offense
 - f. Jesus' answer: Prediction of His resurrection (v. 19-22)
 - i. Note, this interaction would be used at Jesus' trial 3 years later

1. Matthew 26:61; Mark 14:58
- ii. And used as an accusation against early Christians
 1. Acts 6:14
- g. Literary notes
 - i. John 1:12, "To as many as received Him..."
 1. Note the confusion of those who rejected Jesus was common during His earthly ministry. See John 3:4 and John 6:52 for other examples. John had already told us that the darkness did not comprehend the Light (1:5).
3. The Reaction (v. 24-25)
 - a. Many "believe" due to seeing Him perform signs
 - i. This was not saving faith
 - b. Jesus shows His omniscience in that He knows men's hearts
 - i. Only God knows men's hearts
 1. 1 Samuel 16:7, "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart.**"
 - ii. Therefore, **Jesus is God.**