

Lesson 3

The Ministry Begins

John 2:1-25

1. What verse in 2:1-11 would you take as your special verse for this week? Think and pray about it this week. If you wish, share the results with your group.

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

2 Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

3 When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

4 (And) Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come."

5 His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

6 Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

7 Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim.

8 Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it.

9 And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom

10 and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

11 Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

2. Look carefully at the attitude of the mother of the Lord here. Did Jesus obey her, or did she obey Jesus? Explain.

3. Give two or three lessons we can learn from Mary's example in this passage.

4. A. Give at least three points which this miracle reveals concerning the personality of Jesus.

B. What would you consider to be the main lesson of this miracle that we should apply to ourselves today?

5. How did Jesus first sign affect His disciples?

6. A. Read John 2:13-25 with Malachi 3:1-3 and Psalm 69:10. In what way were these Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in John 2:13-25?

John 2:13-25

13 Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there.

15 He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables,

16 and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

17 His disciples recalled the words of scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

18 At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

20 The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

22 Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

23 While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

24 But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,

25 and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

Malachi 3:1-3

1 Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek, and the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

2 But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire, or like the fuller's lye.

3 He will sit refining and purifying (silver), and he will purify the sons of Levi, Refining them like gold or like silver that they may offer due sacrifice to the LORD.

Psalm 69:9

10 Because zeal for your house has consumed me, I am scorned by those who scorn you.

- B. If the priests, scribes, Pharisees and Jews had been truly honest, would they have needed any more "signs" to confirm Jesus' authority?

7. Why does asking for a sign show their unbelief and rebellion against Him? B. In what way can we be guilty of falling into the same attitude today? See Mt.16:1-4.

Matthew 16:1-4

1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came and, to test him, asked him to show them a sign from heaven.

2 He said to them in reply, "(In the evening you say, 'Tomorrow will be fair, for the sky is red';

3 and, in the morning, 'Today will be stormy, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times.)

4 An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Then he left them and went away.

8. John 2:19, 21 refer to Jesus' body as the temple of God. How was the physical body of Jesus the Temple of God? (Read 1 Cor.3:16-17 and 6:19-20, 2 Cor.6:16)

John 2:19, 21

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

20 For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.

2 Corinthians 6:16

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said: "I will live with them and move among them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people.

9. Write beside the following passages how our body becomes "the temple of God".

A. Luke 11:13

13 If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

B. Romans 8:9

9 But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

C. Romans 8:15-16

15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"

16 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

D. Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit,

14 which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.

E. 1 John 4:11-13

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

13 This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit.

F. Revelation 3:20

20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, (then) I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

10. A. Explain what Jesus meant in 2:19.

19 Jesus answered and said to them, 15 "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

B. How was this a sign of His authority?

11. Read John 2:23-25. What was wrong with the faith of the people of Jerusalem that caused Jesus not to trust Himself to them?

23 While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

24 But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,

25 and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.