

JOHN

Chapter 2

Note from Kathy

Take a look at your calendar this week. Are you leaving time to enjoy the simple pleasures of life with friends? God can use us at a wedding, graduation or in a hospital room visiting a new mother and father. All it takes is a desire to be used by Him. If we are focused on the things of eternal value, we will make a difference wherever we are. Why not ask God to use you today?

Observation



1. The chapter begins with a time reference. John wants the reader to be aware that there is a timeline to these events. It was the _____ day after Nathanael met Jesus. According to John 21:2, Jesus and his followers were visiting the hometown of Nathanael. Where were they? _____ of Galilee. What joyous event had Jesus and his disciples been invited to attend?
2. Did you notice Jesus' mother Mary had a role to play at this event? She may have been more than merely an invited guest. She may have been related or possibly just a very close friend, because she appears to be involved in caring for some of the details. All weddings have glitches. No matter how well you try to plan, there are things that just happen. We see Mary trying to help remedy the problem. What was the problem?

John 2:6-8

"Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water;' so they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'"

John 2:24-25

"But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. ²⁵He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man."

3. Who does Mary go to in order to get some help? _____
4. Even though she did not get the response she might have been expecting, did you notice her faith? How did she express her faith?
5. Jesus did help. We see his act of divine compassion on this groom and his family. Look at verses 6-7. What did Jesus tell the servants to do?
6. When they had completed his assignment, what did Jesus instruct them to do immediately?
7. The one in charge of the banquet had no idea where this wine had come from. Who does he call aside and question?
8. Verse 10 makes me smile. The master of the banquet is a bit confused. What does that tell you about this water Jesus had turned into wine?
9. Where did Jesus go next? Who went with him, and how long did they stay?
10. Passover was an annual celebration of God's people. But when Jesus arrived at the temple courtyard, what was going on?
11. Were the people truly preparing their hearts to remember God's amazing deliverance of their forefathers, or were many interested in profiting from the holiday?
12. The fact that no one stopped Jesus when he cleared out the money changers and merchants tells us something about how they viewed what was going on. What did they ask Jesus to give them?
13. John tells us that the disciples remembered these events after his resurrection. They recalled the words he spoke and knew exactly what Jesus was talking about that day when he said, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The disciples believed as did many others, but after reading John 2:24-25, what do you see concerning some of those following Jesus?

Application

Philippians 4:19

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Jesus Christ."

1. Jesus is gathering those who would become his inner circle. He is about to begin his earthly ministry, and yet he sees a wedding as an important event to schedule into his day. How busy is your schedule every week? Do you leave time for what is important to others? Do you leave time to rejoice with friends and family at their wedding, the birth of a child or some other event that is important to them? How full is your weekly schedule?
2. We see a beautiful example of divine compassion in verses 6-8. Jesus not only supplies a need in a miraculous way, but the wine Jesus gives is better than the very best they had served earlier. Do you ever look at a need in your life and wish things were different? Perhaps you think, "I wish I had planned things out better." Ask Jesus for help, believing that Philippians 4:19 applies to your need. What need do you have? Have you talked to Jesus about it? He loves you and he longs to help you.
3. Mary told the men that day, "Do whatever he tells you." I think that is pretty good advice for us as well. Let's listen and then just do whatever He tells us to do. When helping others with a need they have, do you give your best?
4. In verses 13-17, we see Jesus made a whip and began driving out the money changers from the temple courtyard. There are times to get upset and there are causes which require action. Jesus had come to the temple to celebrate the Passover. What was going on at the temple was anything but worship that day. What was the last thing you got upset about? Was it righteous anger?

All too often we simply get mad because our rights have been infringed upon or our feelings hurt. Let's save our anger for the things that anger the heart of God. Is there something God is stirring in your heart today?

Jeremiah 17:9-10

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? ¹⁰I the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Psalms 24:3-4

"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart."

5. Do you believe these merchants knew what they were doing was wrong?

They should have known God's house was to be kept holy. The Jews did not question Jesus as to why he threw them out. They simply wanted a miraculous sign proving that he had the authority to do it. Their doing business or even making a profit was not what angered Jesus; it was their disrespect of God's house.

Let's stop for a few minutes and check our own heart. Ask yourself: how do I view God's house? Is it all about me? Does the music need to be just the right music?

Does the sermon need to be presented just the way I like to hear it?

Does it need to be timed according to my timetable?

If you said yes to some of these then is it really a place where you are worshiping God?

To worship means to show respect and devotion, to praise and lift up and show adoration for someone. Would you say that describes you when you are in God's house?

6. It is easy for us to see the disrespect as the Jews questioned Jesus' authority. What was your response the last time the Lord spoke to you about something you were doing wrong? Did you humbly and immediately check your heart and motives? Obedience is not obedience unless it is immediate.

7. We need not fear asking the Lord to search our hearts. Have you ever thought God felt far away?

When we accept Christ's finished work on the cross, he forgives our sins, past, present and future. Jesus died for our sins before we were ever born. When he said, "It is finished," it was. But we still sin. John 2:25 reminds us, "Jesus knows what is in each heart." Now read Jeremiah 17:9-10, 1 John 1:9 and Psalms 24:3-4. Talk to the Lord about all things. Be honest. He loves you and longs to have a close relationship with you. Nothing will make Him happier and nothing will make you happier.