

I. John 2:1-3:36 – Jesus’ ministry begins

A. John 2:1-12 – The first sign miracle: the wedding in Cana

1. John 2:1a – *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there* . The third day probably referred to the third day of Jesus’ **journey** to Galilee with His six disciples. By this time, Jesus had called John and his brother James, Andrew and Peter, Philip and Nathanael to be His disciples. Matthew 4:18-22
2. John 2:2 – *... and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding*. This wedding set the stage for Jesus’ first miracle and His inauguration into ministry. This was the first powerful public display of Jesus’ **deity** and undoubtedly served to strengthen the faith of His disciples and their resolve to follow Him.
3. John 2:3 – *When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”* To run out of wine at a wedding would have been embarrassing and disgraceful. Mary turned to Jesus to **solve** this awkward problem.
4. John 2:4 – Understanding Jesus’ response to Mary
 - a. John 2:4a – *And Jesus said to her, “Woman...”* Although this statement may sound disrespectful to us today, we know that Jesus would not have been disrespectful to his **mother**. However, the time had come for Him to do the work His heavenly Father had sent Him to do. Matthew 19:19, Luke 2:48-51, John 19:26, Ephesians 6:6
 - b. John 2:4b – *“Woman, what does that have to do with us?”* Literally translated this would read, “Woman what to **me** and to **you**.”
 - 1) Jesus came to do the **will** of His Father in heaven, not His own will or the will of any other human. John 6:38 clearly says, *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”* John 5:19, 30
 - 2) John 4:34 clearly shows how important it was to Jesus to exclusively do the will of God the Father. Doing God’s will was more important to Jesus than **eating**. *“Jesus explained, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.’”*
 - c. John 2:4c – *“...My hour has not yet come.”* In John’s Gospel, Jesus used the phrase, “My hour” to refer to the future events of His crucifixion. Right from the very beginning of His ministry, Jesus alluded to the ultimate **purpose** for which the Father sent Him to earth, which was to lay down His life for our sins. Acts 2:23, 1 Peter 1:20
5. John 2:5 – *His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”* Mary’s command to the servants showed confidence in Jesus’ supernatural **ability**. Likely more than anyone else at that time, Mary knew Jesus was the Son of God. Luke 1:31-32
6. John 2:6 – *Now there were **six** stone water pots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each* . The water pots would have been for washing hands and feet, according to Jewish customs. Stone water pots would have been less susceptible to impurities than earthen ones. Leviticus 11:29-33, Mark 7:3
7. John 2:7 – *Jesus said to them, “Fill the water pots with water.” So they filled them up to the brim* . The servants obeyed Jesus just like Mary told them to do. When He said to fill the water pots, they filled them to the very **top**.
8. John 2:8 – *And He said to them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it to him* . The head waiter was about to become aware of something very amazing. Jesus’ **amazing** miracle-working power would quietly bypass time and create wine without grapes and the long period required for fermentation. No one can do that.
9. John 2:9 – *When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom...* The servants were **aware** of the miracle, but the headwaiter and the husband were not.
 - a. This backstage **miracle** was particularly beneficial for Christ’s recently called disciples.
 - b. Jesus used this sign miracle to show His **glory** to His new disciples in order to bolster their faith in Him as the all-powerful Son of God. John 1:14
10. John 2:10 – *... and said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now.”* The wine Jesus created was far **superior** to the wine that had been served previously.

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11. John 2:11 – *This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him* . This miracle was a sign. God designed signs to be miracles that pointed to something greater, **beyond** the miracle itself.
 - a. Fast-forwarding the long process of fermentation to produce such high-quality wine pointed to the fact that Jesus was Immanuel, **God** with us, the long-awaited Messiah predicted in the Old Testament. Only God can create out of nothing, and whatever He creates is perfect. John 20:30-31
 - b. Since the disciples had already believed in Him for their salvation, this miracle served to further strengthen their **faith**.
 - c. This account of Jesus’ first miracle marks a shift from the testimony evidence of John the Baptist, to the viewable evidence of Christ’s **sign** miracles.
12. John 2:12a – *After this He went down to Capernaum...* Capernaum was an important **city** on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum became the center of Jesus’ Galilean ministry.
13. John 2:12b – *... He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.* Why did Jesus **begin** His ministry in Galilee rather than Jerusalem?
 - a. By centering His ministry in Galilee, He fulfilled **prophecy**. In Isaiah 9:1-2, Isaiah prophesied that Messiah would bring glory and light to the region of Galilee.
 - b. In Matthew 4:12-16, Matthew confirmed this fact by applying Isaiah 9:1-2 directly to **Jesus’** ministry efforts in Galilee.
 - c. Interestingly, in this Gospel, John focused more on Jesus’ ministry in **Judea** and Jerusalem than on His Galilean ministry.

B. John 2:13-22 – The first cleansing of the temple

1. John 2:13 – *The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.* Not long after His **baptism**, Jesus went up to the temple for the Passover feast. He was zealous to begin doing His Father’s plans and purposes.
 - a. As specified in the Mosaic Law, once a year Jews everywhere were required to go to Jerusalem to celebrate the **Passover** feast.
 - b. The Passover served as a **reminder** to the Jews of the time God redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt. Exodus 12:1-14
 - c. From scripture (1 Cor. 5:7) we know that the Passover pointed to the Messiah’s principal **work** of redemption. It should not surprise us that Jesus would eventually be crucified during a Passover celebration. Mark 15:42, John 1:29, 18:38-39; 1 Corinthians 5:7
2. John 2:14 – *And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables* . Corrupt businesspeople were extorting **money** from their fellow Jews who came to the temple to make a sacrifice. Ezekiel 34:1-10
 - a. Since sacrificial animals had to be without blemish, **dishonest** temple inspectors would find imaginary blemishes on the animals brought by the people. Since their animals did not pass the test, they were forced to buy the temple animals at inflated prices.
 - b. These events occurred in the Court of Gentiles. The Court of the Gentiles was the only area within the temple complex where non-Jews were allowed. This was the one area in the temple where Gentiles could **learn** about the one true God and how to come near to Him. Ezekiel 34:23-24
 - c. Sadly, the money-making businesses of corrupt religious leaders was ruining this possibility. Instead of being a **light** to the nations of the world, these corrupt Jewish businesspeople were hindering anyone from wanting to, or even being able to, learn about God. Mark 11:17
3. John 2:15 – *And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.* Jesus displayed His Messianic **authority** and passion for God by using a whip to drive the moneychangers from the temple, His Father’s house. John 4:45
 - a. Malachi 3:1-3 taught that when Messiah would come to the temple, He would manifest Himself in a spectacular manner and would **purify** the sons of Levi who served as priests.
 - b. This event clearly showed that Jesus was physically **strong** and that He possessed divine authority. In the fulfillment of prophecy, no one interfered or successfully stopped Him from completing this important task. Ezekiel 34:20-22
4. John 2:16 – *... and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.”* Jesus did not **oppose** the sacrificial animals; He opposed the fact that they

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- were turning the temple into a marketplace. They were corrupting the purpose of God's house. Psalm 69:9, Mark 11:17
- a. Through both His words and **actions**, Jesus took authority over the temple. After cleansing the temple, He stated that it was His Father's house. By calling the temple His Father's house, Jesus made a Messianic declaration.
 - b. By calling God His Father, Jesus essentially claimed to be **equal** to God the Father. John 5:18, 19:7
5. John 2:17 – *His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."* The disciples connected Jesus' **passion** for the temple to Psalm 69:9, a Davidic psalm about unjust suffering for obedience to God.
6. John 2:18 – *The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?"* As confirmed by His disciples in the previous verse, Jesus' authoritative and zealous entry into the temple was a credible **sign** of His Messianic authority. The brash religious leaders did not want to entertain even the possibility that Jesus was the Messiah.
7. John 2:19 – *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* Jesus answered these rebellious religious leaders with a **prophecy** about His future resurrection. As Messiah, he would die for all the sins of the world, but on the third day He would rise from the dead as head over all authority and power forever! Ephesians 1:19-21
- a. Later, as seen in Matthew 27:63, these religious leaders showed they plainly **grasped** His prophecy. They said to Pilot, "*Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.'*" Matthew 27:62-64
 - b. Although these religious leaders **illegally**, and with determination participated in Christ's death, they would prove to be totally unsuccessful in preventing His resurrection. Luke 9:22, Acts 2:23
8. John 2:20 – *The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"* The religious leaders were blinded by religious pride. They did not choose to understand the significance of Jesus' words when He said, "This **temple**."
9. John 2:21 – *But He was speaking of the temple of His body.* John explained that Jesus was talking about His physical **body**.
10. John 2:22 – *So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.* Jesus prophesied about his death and resurrection three years before it occurred. After His resurrection, the disciples' **faith** was strengthened when they recalled Jesus' statement.