

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF JOHN Chapter 2:

vs. 1-11

Cana is about four miles northeast of Nazareth and on the road to Capernaum. Jesus was invited to attend a wedding feast there and something unexpected happened. When the host ran out of wine, Jesus gave assistance and performed His first miracle which was turning water into wine. Mary the mother of Jesus had told the servants to do that which He (Jesus) would command them. At that, Jesus told them to take the 6 jugs out by the doorway and fill them with water up to the brim and then to take them to the ruler of the feast. The ruler claimed that it was the best wine that he had, had.

The miracle was that Jesus had power over the forces of nature itself and this was proven by the fact that He was able to turn water into wine.

vs. 12-25

Jesus then went to the temple in Jerusalem to keep the feast of the Passover. When He appeared at the temple, He found things happening there which He did not like. The animals for sacrifices and offerings had to be examined by persons qualified to do so and who had been duly appointed. For such inspections, there were exorbitant charges. Improper transactions were carried on and the buyers were being taken advantage of. The profits that were made were all supposed to flow into the temple treasury; but the fact is that they went mainly to the money-changers and the priests. This whole situation was a desecration of their religion. It was this that Christ found offensive.

This all occurred in the Court of the Gentiles, where people would talk and teach and learn. Jesus made whips and overturned the tables of the money-changers and let the animals out of their pens.

The priests dared not to do anything, because the people realized that they were being cheated and they would have risen up and attacked the priests. Jesus gave the priests a sign which He promised them would take place. The sign that the temple [His body] would be destroyed and He would raise it up in 3 days.

While Jesus was there in Jerusalem during His brief Judean ministry, He performed many miracles which have not been recorded. During this time, He also celebrated the Passover. These miracles brought a shallow faith on the part of the believers. Jesus did not trust these people because they were not seeking to follow God, but rather to follow man and their desires.

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF JOHN Chapter 3:

vs. 1-21

The visit of Nicodemus to Jesus started out when Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. He admitted that the Pharisees believed that Jesus came from God, because nobody could do the miracles that He had been doing, except God was with them. Nicodemus asked Jesus in his own subtle way, if Jesus was sent from God. To this, Jesus replied, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." What Jesus meant by this reply was that if a person wants to have eternal life in heaven then he must die to his worldly life and start living a spirit-filled life.

This new birth can be brought about through the rededication of one's self through baptism and being reborn, and also through the presence of the Holy Spirit which now dwells in that person. The Spirit will help the person to think new thoughts, have the right feelings towards others, and help them develop their conscience. They must be born again from God (John 1:12,13).

Christian baptism had not yet come into being in the time of Christ, because there was not the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus was saying, as shown by the question that he asks. Jesus was telling him that the Holy Spirit gives "new life" to man, just as the evening winds there in Palestine, give new life. The only one who could teach concerning these heavenly things, Jesus was saying, is the one who had descended from heaven and shared it with man.

The reference to the snake that Moses lifted up in the wilderness was an analogy which symbolized that just as one looking upon the snake would save the person from death, so looking upon Christ who was crucified, will save the believer today. This was the reason that Jesus had come into the world, was to save the world and this is also how God showed His love to mankind.

vs. 22-36

John the Baptizer was baptizing near Aenon because things were getting too hot with the Pharisees near Jerusalem and also because there was plenty of water there at the springs, even during the summer, in which to immerse people.

John's disciples worried about the multitudes following after Jesus, instead of following after John. They were becoming jealous of Christ. When confronted about it, John told them, "I must decrease while He increases". This showed proper humility and an earnest desire to follow the will of God, on the part of John.

Those who follow Christ will be saved and granted eternal life, whereas the wrath of God will abide upon those who are not persuaded and fail to follow.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 2:

1. Who do we know of who attended the wedding at Cana?
2. Who suggested that Jesus might be able to help with the wine situation?
3. What did Jesus tell the servants to do?
4. What did the master of the banquet say about the wine?
5. What was the result of this miracle?
6. When did Jesus go up to Jerusalem?
7. What did Jesus find in the temple courts?
8. What did He then do and say?
9. What did Jesus say about raising a temple?
10. When does it say that the disciples then believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus has spoken (see vs. 22)?
11. Why did many people believe in Jesus' name?

BONUS:

1. How does Jesus demonstrate His power over nature now?
2. What can Christians learn from the servants?
3. How do you think the incident about the clearing of the temple, applies to us today?
4. Explain what you think verse 24 means.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 3:

1. Who came to Jesus at night? [Describe him]
2. How only can one enter the kingdom of God?
3. Who must be lifted up, just as the serpent or snake was lifted up?
4. What will happen to those who believe?
5. Why did men love darkness?
6. Why do people come into the light?
7. Why was John baptizing at Aenon near Salim?
8. What does John say about his ministry compared to Christs? [see vs. 30]
9. What happens to those who reject the Son?

BONUS:

1. What do verse 5 - 8 tell you about the importance of being immersed for the forgiveness of sins and gift of the Holy Spirit?
2. Why do you think that verse 16 has become such a favorite through the years?
3. What can we learn from John's attitude in verse 30?