

CCF Study Notes
Tuesday 7 AM Study
17 January 2006
John Chapter 2

Before beginning to read from John's Chapter 2 let's pray and ask that God would help us

1. **Believe** in Jesus Christ as He is presented through the signs he gave,
2. **Receive** Jesus into our hearts that He may "cleanse the temple," and
3. **Allow** Jesus access to all parts of our lives, since He knows what is in us.

Read through the sections chapter of John's gospel and outline the chapter, dividing it into sections. What is important is to identify the major sections of the chapter and how they fit together. I see four sections here. How does this chapter fit with what came before in Chapter 1? Find as many things as possible that tie this chapter with the previous chapter.

Look for references to some of the key concepts of John's gospel: Belief, Life, the deity of Christ as the Son of God. There is a new concept introduced here which will be an important organizing principle for John's: the concept of **signs**. If you have time, read through John's gospel and identify the seven signs (I exclude the resurrection, which was not directly witnessed, and the catch of fish in the last chapter from the list of seven.) Signs are more than mere wonders or miracles. They are events that signify something. What did this first sign signify to people, that they would respond with belief?

John would write down the Book of Revelation six years after his gospel. At that point John certainly was able to embrace apocalyptic teachings, so it would be fair to suggest he might have embraced them in writing his gospel as well. Might there be some apocalyptic significance to the account of the wedding at Cana? Consider what we were told about the wedding. Who was there? Whose wedding was it? Consider Jesus' cryptic statement, "My hour has not yet come." Consider how this account is identified: "the beginning of signs." Are there any other pointers to apocalyptic significance. What would be the apocalyptic significance of this sign?

Look closely at verses 4 and 5. Apply them to your own life. What do they tell us about God's timing? What do they tell us about simple obedience to Christ? What is the first and most significant obedience we offer to Christ?

Look closely at the water and see if you can see a tie to the ministry of John the Baptist. How is Jesus' ministry different from John's? What is the sign, and how is Jesus' glory manifested by it?

Trace the geographical and chronological notes in the first two chapters of John's gospel to gain insight into the flow of events. Do these events seem cover a long time span or a large area? Where does Jerusalem come into play in John's gospel before 2:13?

How is the Passover significant in this story? (Consider John 1:29)

Is there anything we can learn from Jesus' cleansing the temple? Or what would be a reasonable application of John 2:16? Is it OK to hawk the gospel for commercial gain or seek to profit financially from evangelistic endeavors? Who is hurt by it or who really cares? What is one way to know a church program has ceased to be of God?

"My Father's house..." Consider what Jesus was saying and how various groups would respond to it.

Jesus here offers the greatest of all the signs concerning His authority. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Notice when Jesus offers this sign. Is the temple eternal? Jews affirm that it is. Are they wrong? How so?

When the scriptures and prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus Christ what should we do in response? Hint: there are two things we must do (2:22b).

When we call Jesus **our** Lord and Savior are we implying some kind of ownership? What is meant when it says, "He did not commit Himself to them? Do we sometimes have agendas of our own which we expect Jesus to live out? Why doesn't Jesus live up to our expectations?

Seeing that Jesus knows what is in every person is there any place for hypocrisy, for putting on masks and playing roles? Put yourself in the Apostle's shoes for a minute. Can you imagine spending three years with a man who has the uncanny ability to see right through you?

Spend some time in reflection and prayer. Is there some part of your life that has not been subjected to the cleansing of Jesus' blood? Are there still agendas, areas of your will that are not submitted to Christ? Jesus wants to turn the water into wine. He wants you to die with Him to the desires of the flesh that you might be raised up in Him as a new creation in Christ Jesus filled with the Spirit instead of the desires of the flesh.