

A New Era Has Dawned (John 2)

I. A New Relationship is Defined (2:1-5)

A. Jesus and His mother attend a wedding in Cana (1-2)

1. Jewish weddings were week long festivals celebrating the union
2. The groom is obligated to provide all guests with enough supplies for the week.
 - a. Failing to do so would bring great shame upon his family and even open him up for lawsuits – it was that big of a deal.

B. Jesus' mother seems to have an Coordinating role in the wedding so it may have been a family member who is getting married (3)

1. She comes to Jesus when they run out of wine
 - a. Jesus' mother is rightly upset because running out of wine is no small matter.
2. She seems to come as a mother to her first-born
 - a. Joseph (Mary's husband) is not mentioned anymore in the gospels during Jesus' ministry (perhaps he had died)
 - b. Mary (who obviously knew Jesus' identity as the Son of God) would have looked to her first born for help.
 - c. Maybe she expected a miracle, maybe she just expected some help with the issue.

C. Jesus Redefines His Relationship (v. 4-5) –

1. Jesus will only act as Lord on the Father's Timetable (4)
 - a. "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come"
 - "Woman" was not a disrespectful way to address someone. It was a gentle and polite rebuke.
 - Yet it was not the natural way for a son to address his mother.
 - From this point on in the gospel, their relationship would not be that of simply mother and son – now it would be a woman and her Lord, the Savior.
 - she like everyone else must come to Him as Lord and Savior for her sins
 - b. "mine hour is not yet come"
 - He does not work on any other schedule than the Father's
 - His "hour" in John's gospel seems to often refer to his crucifixion and resurrection – when he is revealed completely as the Savior of the world.
2. Jesus' Mother Responds in Faithful Acceptance (5)
 - a. She accepts the gentle rebuke and tells the servants to obey whatever Jesus tells them.

II. A New Fulfillment is Demonstrated (6-10)

A. The Old Jewish Rituals Are Being Superseded (6-7)

1. Six Stone Jars are present for Ritual Purification (6)

- a. These jars (which hold around 20 gallons each) were necessary for ceremonial washing.
 - Utensils must be washed there to be ritual clean
 - The hands of the guests must be washed at intervals during the wedding celebration before eating and drinking
 - They represent the old ritual order of the Jews – Jesus will transform them into wine

2. The Jars are filled to the brim with Water at Jesus' Command (7)

B. The New Wine is Greater than the Old Rituals (8-10)

NOTE: In the Old Testament the coming of the Lord's salvation is pictured as a banquet with an abundance of wine (Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13-14; Hos. 14:7; Jer. 31:12-14; Isa. 25:6). However, an "abundance of wine" does not condone drunkenness which is clearly sinful in Scripture. In Jewish thought, wine is a symbol of joy. Therefore an abundance of wine means an abundance of joy.

NOTE: *Wine was usually diluted with water which prevented excess and allowed water to be stored without going bad. Undiluted wine is called "strong drink" in Scripture. (Lev. 10:9; Num. 6:3; Deut. 14:26; 29:6; Jud. 13:4, 7, 14; 1 Sam. 1:15; Prv. 20:1; 31:4, 6; Isa. 5:22; 29:9; 56:12; Mic. 2:11; Luke 1:15).*

In the book of 2 Maccabees 15:38-39 (this is an apocryphal book, not part of the Bible) it says, "

*"And if I have written well and to the point in my story, this is what I myself desired; but if meanly and indifferently, this is all I could attain unto. **For as it is distasteful to drink wine alone and in like manner again to drink water alone, while the mingling of wine with water at once giveth full pleasantness to the flavour;** so also the fashioning of the language delighteth the ears of them that read the story."*

1. The drink is brought to the head master of the feast (8)
 - a. This was the man in charge of the supplies and waiters
2. The Ruler of the Feast Praises the Groom (9-10)
 - a. The wine made by Christ was better than all others
 - b. The wine symbolized the new era of joy which replaces the old era of ritual observances.
 - c. The old covenant simply pointed forward to the coming of the new – Now the New era of salvation has arrived.

III. A New Revelation is Manifested (v. 11)

A. The Purpose of this Sign was to manifest Jesus' Glory

1. It was not simply to give wine to people who needed it
2. Jesus intended this to be a "sign" (KJV says miracle) – the word points to a work done that testifies to something else.

- a. Jesus didn't just do magic tricks – this was to manifest his glory to his disciples
- B. The Purpose of this Sign was That they would Believe
 - 1. His disciples believed in Him there

IV. A New Model Of Worship is Demonstrated (13-22)

- A. Jesus Cleanses the Old Temple (13-17)
 - 1. Jesus travels to Jerusalem for the Passover (13)
 - 2. Jesus Chases away the Peddlers in the Temple (14-15)
 - a. Sacrifices were required when people came to the Temple
 - b. To accommodate travelers, people sold sacrificial animals there in the outer court
 - c. The priests had to approve the sacrifice of anyone who brought one into the Temple, therefore the merchants would give the priests “kickbacks” to approve only their animals.
 - d. This meant they could charge whatever they wanted for them and the people would have to pay
 - e. Also, the Temple tax must be paid with the shekel. Foreign money was not allowed, so people would exchange their money for the shekels to pay the tax at extremely high rates.
 - f. Temple worship had become big business for all those involved.
 - g. Jesus used a cord of rope to chase out the merchants and turn over the money changer's tables
 - 3. Jesus Condemns what the Worship had become (16)
 - a. Instead of worship they were in business
 - 4. Jesus' Disciples saw his actions as a fulfillment of OT Prophecy (17)
- B. Jesus Himself is the New Temple (18-22)
 - 1. Jesus' Body is the Temple (18-21)
 - a. The Jews demand a sign (same word as used before where he turned water into wine) to prove his authority
 - b. The sign he gave them was to tell them “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
 - c. They thought he meant the building
 - d. He actually meant His body
 - 2. Jesus' Disciples Remember His words (22)
 - a. They understood the Scriptures after the resurrection
 - b. They understood what he meant by “the Temple”

V. A New Relationship is Demanded (23-25)

- A. Many “believed” in Jesus there
 - 1. John always uses the past tense (aorist) “believed” for false faith, and he always uses the present tense for true saving faith (compare John 3:16)
 - a. True faith in Christ is a lifestyle, an ongoing continuous reality

b. Believing facts about Jesus is seen as a singular event in the past.

B. Jesus didn't Commit Himself to them (24)

1. The word for "believed" in verse 23 is the same form used here for "commit himself" – they believed on Jesus but Jesus did not entrust himself to them. He did not believe in them. This means that he knew their faith was not genuine. Therefore, He did not enter into relationship with them.

C. Jesus Knew Their Hearts (25)

1. He knew their faith was not true
2. He knew their hearts were not contrite or repentant
3. He does not accept false worship