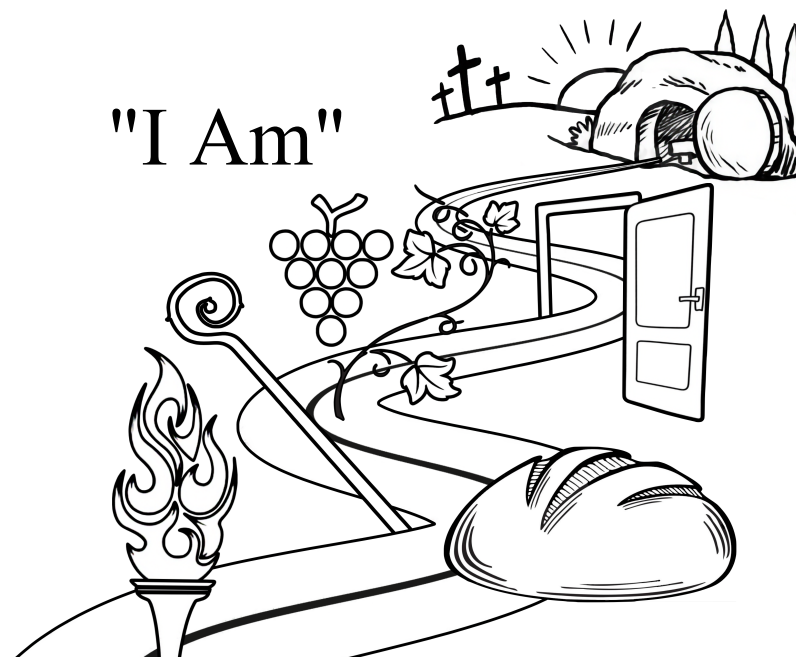


Read John 2:13-25

1. Recall what we've learned about Passover in 1st century Jerusalem, pilgrimage crowds, Roman occupied temple, money changers...
2. How long does it take to form a whip?
3. The disciples "remember" what in these verses? (17, 22)
4. How are verses 11 & 22 similar?
5. The Synoptic Gospels all use the phrase "robbers' den" (ληστής). John uses the word "merchandise" (ἐμπορίου). What difference does this make, as John is using this story to introduce Jesus?
6. How does John juxtapose the living temple of God, the Incarnate bearer of God's glory with a corrupt temple in Jerusalem?

What word would you use to describe Jesus from John's wedding & wine story, and what word would you use to describe Jesus from John's temple cleansing story?



a study of The Gospel According to John

Summer 2025

Lesson #3

John 2

"I AM the Life of the Party"

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REVIEW:

John 1:19-51 – "the Voice" – John the Baptist is a man who knows himself and his mission. Ten times in thirty verses he witnesses, testifies, and confesses, Jesus is the Lamb of God who will deal with the sin of the cosmos. John witnesses to the cosmos, to the religious leaders from Jerusalem, to the crowd around him, and to his own disciples. Consequently, his disciples follow Jesus and they in turn witness to others.

Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathanael are mentioned by name as Jesus' first disciples. Nathanael is the first confessing believer due to the witnessing of John, through Philip. Nathanael: "You are the Son of God, the King of Israel." John 1:49

Jesus' first words: 1) "What are you looking for?" 2) "Come and see" and 3) Follow me. Jesus also refers to Jacob's ladder from Genesis 28:10-17.

VOCABULARY:

Master of the Banquet (ἀρχιτρίκλινος) From *arche* and a compound of *treis* and *klino* (a dinner-bed, because composed of three couches); director of the entertainment -- governor (ruler) of the feast.

BRIEF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT:

John's Gospel contains seven "signs" or miracles. The Synoptic Gospels are filled with miracles, but John uses them as signs about Jesus. John writes, "... truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." John 20:30

"The word "grace" occurs only four times in the Fourth Gospel and only in the Prologue (1:1-18). Why? [...] what if we take the incarnation seriously and suggest that once the Word becomes flesh, the rest of the Gospel shows you what grace tastes like, looks like, smells like, sounds like, feels like? Jesus' signs show you, don't tell you, what abundant grace is. And what does abundant grace taste like? Like the best wine when you are expecting the cheap stuff." [3]

The Wedding at Cana takes place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jewish weddings lasted for several days. Obviously, the wealthier the Bridegroom, the more extravagant the party. This family had a master of the banquet – a wedding planner, of sorts. Another clue to their wealth is the mention of six "stone" jars. Stone jars were more rare, but were essential to keep liquids from becoming rancid, and seeping into the clay of plaster containers. Not only were there six, but they each held 20 to 30 gallons of liquid.

Read John 2:1-12 ... the inaugural "sign" of God's presence in the world through Jesus.

Jesus' response: "They should have hired a better wedding planner."

1. Who is with Jesus at this wedding? (see vs.1, 2 & 12)
2. John places Mary at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. She is only mentioned twice in John's Gospel, and not by name. Where does she show up for the second time? (see John 19:25-27)
3. When do the disciples "believe?" When does Mary "believe?"
4. What is Jesus' "hour"
5. Aside from the supernatural occurrence, how is John introducing Jesus? Discuss the symbolism of the following:

Third day

Celebratory wedding feast

Exchange between mother and son

Six stone jars 20-30 gallons each (one less than 7)

Fill with water; draw out wine

Best wine

Who is the Bridegroom?

It is more than poignant that the mother of Jesus brackets his life, surrounds Jesus' earthly ministry. She is at the beginning of his career and watches him die. She is the nurturing force when he is the Word made flesh, a shared parenthood with God, the father." [3]

The real bridegroom who served this superior wine, Jesus, has "now" appeared, ushering into the world God's abundant goodness and grace in a definitive way. The miracle centers on wine because abundant wine is symbolic of God's presence in the world." [1]

Glory is a major Johannine theme. It connects not only to the 'signs and works' of Jesus' ministry, beginning with the wedding at Cana, but also to the incarnation and to the cross. It goes back to [...] the temple as the place of the indwelling, divine glory and Jesus as the new temple." [We shall see how John introduces the "living temple - Jesus - to the physical temple in Jerusalem when John's story continues] "The events at Cana reveal the divine glory which radiates from Jesus, a glory that is both loving and life-giving. It is the sublime identity of the Son, the source of creation and the good wine kept till last, that is the real point of the Cana miracle." [2]