

John 2:1-25 – The First and Last Signs

In John chapter 2, the first sign of Jesus is documented. In the second half of the chapter, Jesus predicted the last sign of his earthly ministry. John liked the number seven. There are seven signs in the Gospel of John. There are seven “I am” statements. There are seven witnesses to Jesus. Jesus performed many miracles on earth, but John selected seven signs to teach us about who Jesus is and why he came to earth. The signs were recorded that “you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you might have life in His name.”

Read John 2:1-12.

Who was invited to the wedding at Cana of Galilee? (2:1-2, 12)

If my father said, “the grass looks long”, I knew what that meant. I better go out and mow the grass. What was the implied request of Mary to Jesus? (2:3)

How did Jesus respond to Mary? What is the meaning of Jesus’ response? (2:4)

R.C. Sproul said something to the effect that you couldn’t give a much better sermon than Mary’s instructions to the servants. “Do whatever He tells you.” What was Mary’s understanding of Jesus’ words to her? (2:5)

What were Jesus’ instructions to the servants? (2:6-8)

Why do you think Jesus used the stone water jars instead of something else? (2:6)

Wine symbolized more than one thing in the Bible. Sometimes it symbolized God’s judgment. See Jeremiah 13:12-14. Wine also symbolized blessing, joy and gladness. See Jeremiah 31:12, 48:33, Psalm 104:15. What is the significance of Jesus turning water to wine? (2:6-11)

Who witnessed Jesus' sign? What was the result of Jesus' sign? (2:9-11)

Read John 2:13-25.

Why did Jesus go up to Jerusalem? (2:13)

When Jesus came to the temple, he cleaned house. Why did Jesus cleanse the temple? (2:14-17)

Is John's account of Jesus cleansing the temple the same as the account of the other Gospels? Did Jesus cleanse the temple only once or did he cleanse it twice?

This event reminded the disciples of a scripture passage. Which one was it? (2:17)

The Jews wanted Jesus to show them a sign. What was Jesus' response to this demand? (2:19)

How did the Jews misinterpret Jesus' response? When did the disciples finally understand what Jesus had said? (2:20-22)

Knowing that it took three years for the disciples to understand Jesus' prediction of his resurrection, how can this help us when we encounter passages in scripture which we find difficult to understand?

What was Jesus' response to those who believed in his name when they saw the signs he did? (2:23-25)