

**GLORY: The Bridegroom & The Temple**

John's purpose in writing this Gospel is to demonstrate and prove that Christ is the Messiah. In light of this purpose laid out in John 1:14-16, we now begin to see God's manifested glory as the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us and begins to give signs. As we read today, consider the way that John shows Christ as the Messiah by recounting these stories and revealing Christ as the Bridegroom and the Temple.

**Prepare Your Heart**

As you prepare to spend time in the Word, I encourage you to reflect on John 1, and that Jesus is the Word. Praise that Jesus is the Word, and pray this prayer with me from The Valley of Vision, "Christ the Word" (<https://banneroftruth.org/us/devotional/christ-the-word/>) or Psalm 19:7-11. Pray that your heart would be open to hear from Him today.

**John 2:1-12** <sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

1) Why does Jesus say "Woman" and not "Mother"? Is he disrespecting Mary?

2) What hour is Jesus talking about? Why would he bring up that hour now?

Note: Similar references are made throughout this Gospel (John 7:30, John 8:20, John 12:27, John 12:23-24).

<sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup> This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. <sup>12</sup> After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

- 3) What were these jars originally used for?
  
- 4) Why would Jesus not choose to use wine pitchers or regular water buckets or jars?

In a message from John Piper (<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/obedient-son-ultimate-purifier-all-providing-bridegroom>), he explains Christ's demonstration: "Jesus manifests his glory in this story by giving a sign—an acted out parable—of how his own death, his own blood, his hour—will be the final, decisive, ultimate purification for sins. There is no ritual any more for cleansing. There is one way to be clean before God. John says it plainly in Revelation 7:14, *"They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* The glory of Jesus is that he alone, once and for all, made purification for sins. You don't turn to ritual. You turn to Jesus."

- 5) 3. Explain how Christ is the true Purifier. What hope does that give you?
  
- 6) 4. What does Jesus do that the wedding's bridegroom (groom) could not do?

**John 3:29-30** *"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."*

- 7) What makes Christ the true Bridegroom? Who is his bride?

An article by Jon Bloom (<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/jesus-will-provide-the-wine>) reads: "But this wedding wine, poured out of vessels of purification, foreshadowed that best of all wines, which would be served after humans had done their sinful insufficient best to meet their need and failed. This wine would flow freely with infinite abundance from the purest Vessel of all time for the greatest wedding of all time."

**John 2:13-22** <sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup> And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup> So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

8) How many different ways does Jesus refer to the temple?

9) Why is Jesus so angry?

- Is anger a sin?
- What does righteous anger mean?
- What does it look like?

To dive into the above questions and the passage more, watch this video from The Bible Project: The Temple (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/temple/>).

10) What does the Temple represent?

11) How is Jesus the new Temple? (See also John 1:14, Matthew 12:6)

12) Jesus also alludes to "the hour" again in v. 19. What hour?

13) This is the second time we see that the disciples saw & believed (2:11, 2:22). How does this relate to what we already studied in John 20:31? How does it relate to John's purpose for writing?

14) In what way are we "the renewed temple"?

**1 Peter 2:5** "you yourselves like \_\_\_\_\_ are being built up as a \_\_\_\_\_, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

**John 2:23-25** <sup>23</sup> Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people <sup>25</sup> and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

15) What does it mean to "bear witness?"

16) Many believed, but Jesus did not "entrust himself to them." What does that mean?

From this message by John Piper (<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/he-knew-what-was-in-man>): "John is on task. He is writing with a view to helping people see the glory of the Son of God, experience his grace, and believe in him as the Son of God and supreme treasure of their lives and have eternal life. In view of this, John 2:23–25 has an unsettling effect. What it says, in essence, is that Jesus knows what is in every heart, and so he can see when someone believes in a way that is not really believing. In other words, Jesus's ability to know every heart perfectly leads to the unsettling truth that some belief is not the kind of belief that obtains fellowship with Jesus and eternal life. Some belief is not saving belief.... This is not the way he treats his own sheep whom he calls by name, his own disciples. When Jesus withholds himself from them, he is saying that they are not believing in a saving way. They are not the children of God. They are not doing John 1:12. Whatever their faith is, Jesus does not approve."

**Take time to reflect on that:** Have you received Christ, and asked him to be your personal savior? Not just believing that he exists, but actually following him, and entrusting your life to him?

**Reflect**

17) Rejoice and be thankful. How will you pray differently this week, knowing that Christ is the Bridegroom that provides, and he is the Purifier of your soul?

18) How will you live differently knowing that you are the renewed temple? (1 Peter 2:5)

19) Complete this statement: Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_. Explain.

As you finish your time in the Word, I encourage you to listen & worship, and praise Christ, who died and rose again, the true, risen Temple: (“Christ is Risen” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IExdrZGQVeI>), and the true Bridegroom and Purifier: (“New Wine [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbJaM\\_EneMw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbJaM_EneMw)”).