

“The Gospel of John: The Firsts”

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September 18th, 2022

Scripture

John 2:1-22

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, **what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.**"

5His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

6Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So, they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "**Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.**" So, they took it to him.

When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but **you have kept the good wine until now.**"

11**This beginning of His signs** Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and **manifested His glory**, and **His disciples believed in Him**. After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.

13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And **He found in the temple** those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. And **He made a scourge of cords**, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, "**Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business.**" His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

18The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**"

20The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"

21But **He was speaking of the temple of His body**. So, when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.”

Overview of the Gospels

- **Matthew** -> **Jewish flavor to the writing, portraying Jesus as the Christ and King**
- **Mark** -> **Jesus as the “Son of Man”, really Peter’s Gospel for the Gentiles**
- **Luke** -> **Jesus is Human and the Redeemer of Humanity**
- **John** -> **Jesus is the Divine “Son of God”**

Why Write the Gospel?

Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels were already around. Why another one?

The Purpose for John's Gospel

John 20:30-31

"Therefore, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

Many events recorded in the Synoptics not in John -> the Transfiguration, for example

The word "believe" ~100 times in John's Gospel

Firsts

Your First Job

Your First Kiss

Your First "I Love You"

Your First Real Relationship

Your First Child

Your First Commitment to Jesus

The Book of Signs

John Chapters 1 through 12

<u>Changing Water into Wine</u>	<u>(John 2:1-11)</u>
Healing the Royal Official's Son	(John 4:46-54)
Healing the paralytic at the pool	(John 5:1-18)
Feeding over 5,000 with fish and loaves	(John 6:1-14)
Walking on the water	(John 6:15-25)
Healing a man born blind	(John 9:1-41)
Raising Lazarus from the dead	(John 11:1-46)

Proving Jesus to be God

John the Baptist as a Witness

The Calling of the Disciples as a Witness -> Five of them -> **Nathanael** -> "I saw you!"

He is the Word who is God, the Light, the Lamb of God, the Messiah, the Christ, Son of God, King of Israel

“Not So Fast, Mom”

John 2:1-4

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "**Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.**"

Wine was the responsibility of the groom – without wine, embarrassment -> the groom's family could be sued.

Jesus and the disciples are there **signifying a family relationship** brought the group to the wedding

5 disciples mentioned: Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathaniel, and John (of course)

“Woman” -> formal response to his Mum

“What does that have to do with us?” -> “Why would we be responsible for this shortage of wine?”

“This doesn't involve Me!”

“My hour has not yet come” -> Phrase refers to Jesus's death and exaltation -> **He will be known publicly.**

John 7:3-6

“His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. "For **no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly.** If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." For not even His brothers were believing in Him. So Jesus said to them, "**My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune.**"

It is not His time to be known publicly...

John 7:28-31

“Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, "You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but **He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. "I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me.**" So, they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, **because His hour had not yet come.** But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, "When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?"

John 8:18-20

“I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me." So, they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "**You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.**" These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, **because His hour had not yet come.**"

The Father alone holds Jesus's timeline -> the Divine plan will unfold as the Father wished...

John 12:20-23 (Greeks seek Jesus)

“Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, **"Sir, we wish to see Jesus."** Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, saying, **"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."**

Having Gentiles ask for Him was a sign to Jesus that His earthly ministry was ending soon...

John 2:5 (back to our passage)

“His mother said to the servants, **"Whatever He says to you, do it."**

Jesus’s mother, Mary, was convinced He could make wine from water

She had obviously seen this coming in Him over time, perhaps many other miracle healings happened since he was in the temple as age 12:

Luke 2:41-49 (When Jesus was Twelve)

“Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And **when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast**; and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. **When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him**. Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." And He said to them, **"Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"**

Jesus did not recognize Joseph as Jesus’s True father...God was... **Jesus was on a mission early in His life!**

The First Sign

John 2:6-10

“Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the **Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each**. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So, they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, **"Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter."** So, they took it to him.

When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the **headwaiter called the bridegroom**, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but **you have kept the good wine until now**."

Jewish custom of purification in stone pots -> must wash their hands before a meal (example in **Mark 7:6**)

Stone was more sanitary than other containers

180 gallons: -> It was water and then it was wine -> the **transition of material content was immediate**

Water was now wine...

The Good Wine

“New wine” was freshly pressed out of grapes -> **no fermentation occurred**. -> **Luke 5:37-39** – “into old skins”

“Good wine” had to include fermentation because the waiter says that this is served first -> made peeps drunk

Jesus had to have created fermented wine in these pots. -> something that would have taken a long process to occur naturally.

Jewish wine would be sweeter because they added natural sugar to keep the juice from fermenting too much and turning into vinegar.

The First of Many Signs

John 2:11-12

“This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and **manifested His glory**, and **His disciples believed in Him**.

After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.”

“Beginning of His signs” -> miracles that had a purpose in identifying Him as the Christ

Not just miracles for the sake of showing His power

“Manifested His glory” -> manifested means **“to make visible something that was hidden”** -> to reveal His glory

“His disciples believed in Him” -> John is speaking personally -> when John saw that event, He believed something special was occurring in front of his eyes.

After this -> significant time has passed -> **Capernaum is 16 miles away from Galilee**

The First Cleansing of the Temple

More than one cleansing of the temple – This one is at the beginning of His ministry

There were countless signs that Jesus performed

John says that he couldn't record all of them. I cannot imagine all the people that were healed by Jesus where we have no record of the event in the Scriptures.

Many of these events are recorded in the other Gospels -> the Syrophenician woman, the issue of blood, etc.

John 2:13-17

“The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And **He found in the temple** those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. And **He made a scourge of cords**, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, **"Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business."** His disciples remembered that it was written, **"ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.**

Selling Oxen and Doves? Can you imagine the smell in this place?

Where do you think this was this setup? -> Referring to the Temple Map

Psalm 69:6-9

“May those who wait for You not be ashamed through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; May those who seek You not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel, **Because for Your sake I have borne reproach**; Dishonor has covered my face. I have become estranged from my brothers and an alien to my mother's sons. **For zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.**”

Jesus overturns the tables, through the money around on the floor. “Get this crap out of here”

Zeal -> A righteous indignation -> **“How DARE they treat God’s house that way!”**

The Second and Final Cleansing -> Passion week -> **Matthew 21:12-13** (and Mark 11:15-17, and Luke 19:45-46)

All other Gospel writers cite this cleansing at the end of Jesus’s ministry during the final week of His earthly life

For example:

Matthew 21:12-13

“And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. And He said to them, "It is written, **MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER; but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN.**”

Why does John show the 1st cleansing of the temple while other writers do not?

Remember that John is stressing Jesus’s divinity and the first cleaning shows His passion for reverence of God the Father who is HIS Father. These Jews (Pharisees and Scribes) were messing up His Father’s house!

How do you show reverence for God in our church?

Dress Up? Remove your Hat?

In this second cleansing, Jesus says something completely different than the first cleansing.

My House shall be called a House of Prayer!

In the first cleansing, He is focusing on reverence of God and the **Jews were deficient** because they turned the temple **into a shopping mall**

Isaiah 56:3-7

“Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from His people." Nor let the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." For thus says the LORD, "To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off. "Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant; Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and **make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”**

The second cleansing is focusing on the foreigner and how the Gentiles are included in God’s Kingdom.

Gentiles could not come into the formal temple: they had to stay in the Court of the Gentiles.

“Robber’s Den” -> **Jeremiah 7:11** -> **“Has this house become a Robber’s Den in your eyes?”**

The Temple Map



It is important to know where these events are occurring by looking at the map

This kind of chaos could never be found inside the temple proper but in the **Court of the Gentiles**

How can you easily worship God in the middle of a shopping mall?

If you brought a Gentile into the inner temple, the punishment was death by stoning

Acts 21:27-28 (Paul seized for a crime of bringing a Greek into the temple)

“When the seven days were almost over, the Jews from Asia, upon seeing him in the temple, [began] to stir up all the crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, "Men of Israel, come to our aid! This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place; and besides **he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.**”

The first cleansing was for God...the second cleansing was for US!

The first cleansing showed the high standard for the worship of God.

We sang “Holy, Holy, Holy” this morning which comes from:

Isaiah 6:1-3

“In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, **lofty and exalted**, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.**”

The Inner Temple was to be the same...filled with God's Glory.

The Resurrected Temple

John 2:18-22

The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**"

The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"

But **He was speaking of the temple of His body**. So, when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.”

The Jews were **always searching for the authority** Jesus claimed. Jesus claimed He was God again and again, and yet the Jews continued to seek His authority -> their eyes were blinded, and their heart hardened to the truth.

On what authority are they talking? He just cleansed the temple so **how could Jesus claim the right to do it?**

Jesus doesn't answer that question directly -> “A wicked generation seeks a sign” -> **Matthew 12:39**

Instead, Jesus talks about the future temple

“Destroy this temple” -> being in the temple, the Jews naturally think Jesus is talking about the physical structure

John records for us, though, that Jesus was speaking about His own body.

The Jews, however, charged Jesus with threats against the temple -> **Mark 14:58** – they didn’t understand...

The physical temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Romans, as Jesus said -> **Matthew 24:2**

Now the Church are the temple of the Living God:

Ephesians 2:19-22

“So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, **is growing into a holy temple in the Lord**, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“**Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.”

In the end, Jesus is the Temple:

Revelation 21:22-27 (New Jerusalem)

“**I saw no temple in it**, for **the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple**. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, **for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb**. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (**for there will be no night there**) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

All Glory be to Christ

Prayer

Benediction