**John III**

**Jesus at Cana The First Sign**

**Introduction:**

John: Jesus is revealed through his miracles and through his statements about himself.

Central Theme

Jesus is the Son of God who reveals the father, providing eternal life to all who believe in him

7 I AM statements

I AM the bread of life 6:35

I AM the light of the world 8:12,9:5

I AM the door (and the gate) 10:7

I AM the good shepherd 10:1,14

I AM the resurrection and the life 11:25

I AM the Way the Truth and the Life 14:6

I AM the true vine 15:1

7 signs **Miracles as signs** of who Jesus is

[knew the heart and thoughs of Nathanael 1:43-50]

Water to wine 2:1-11

Healing of official’s son 4:43-54

Healing at pool of Bethesda 5:1-5

Feeding of 5000 6:1-14

Walking on water 6:16-21

Healing the man born blind 9:1-12

Resurrection of Lazarus 11:1-44

[miraculous catch of fish John 21:1-13]

John 1:1-18 The Prologue John reveals to us who Jesus is.

**John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God and the Word was God.**

And let’s not forget where we are going with this. John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

How do I make sense of this seemingly illogical idea of “trinity?”

Our God is a relational God. The “trinity” is about the essential relational nature of our Creator/God.

Our God is a God who would be known.

John 1:14 *Logos* became *sarx*. Word became meat. Wow!!!! God became literally flesh/meat. This is a shocking thing—a scandalous thing to the Greek mind.

The Creator/Sustainer, light and life of the world took on human flesh.

He came and tabernacled (HCSV “took up residence”) among us. In Jesus God pitched his tent among men.

Why did God/Logos come in flesh and tabernacle with us?

1. 1:14 So that we could see his glory.

2. 1:18 So that we could see God.

1:14 We beheld his glory. *Shekinah* (Heb) *Doxa* (Greek).

The glory of the monogeneis The unique Son. The only one of its kind.

How is Jesus different? V. 14b full of grace and truth v. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Jesus brought equal measures of grace and truth.

Moses = Law and judgment Jesus = grace and truth.

John 1:18 No one has seen God

But Jesus the unique one has made him known. Jesus is the one who makes God known. To the extent that it is possible to see God, this is what we have in Jesus. Jesus explained God to us.

This week: Jesus meets Nathaniel and Jesus at Cana.

John 1:35-51

John 1:35 John the Baptist is there with two of his closest disciples. Apparently, they are Andrew, Peter’s brother and John “the disciple who Jesus loved.”

Andrew, Peter, James and John, were all pre-disposed to be spiritual men. They were not just four random dudes Jesus happened upon at Bethsaida.

This explains their dropping their nets weeks or months later in Mark 1.

JTB is willing for his closest disciples to go with Jesus. (John 3:30 “He must become greater. I must become less.)

v. 37 Notice the first question Jesus asks in John. “What do you want?”

When you read John, remember that the questions Jesus asks Nicodemus, the Woman at the Well, Martha, etc. are being asked of you.

So…. What do you want? What do you want from Jesus? Let’s be clear.

Why are you here today? What are you hoping for? Jesus asks penetrating questions that get “real.”

John 1:39 Jesus says, “Come and you will see.”

Jesus calls disciples to hang out with him.

Then in 1:41-42 the first thing Andrew does is he invites Simon Peter.

Later, John 1:46 Philip says the same to Nathanael. “Come and see.”

Jesus says this to us and we should say the same to our friends, fellow students, co-workers, family members and co-workers. “Come and see Jesus.”

Andrew Caldera said to his mom and sister, “Come and see.” Tony and Ana Marie said to Jon and Patricia, “Come and see.”

Can you do that?

v. 43 to Philip: come, follow me. (Did he say and I will make you a fisher of men? Maybe. What did Philip do immediately? He invited Nathanael.)

v. 46 How would you describe Nathanael’s reaction to Philip sharing his faith?

Skeptical at best. Nazareth? Really? That God-forsaken little town?

(but we know from Luke that Jesus loves God-forsaken things, right?)

Well, what about all the contradictions in the Bible?

Christians are a bunch of hypocrites!

What about predestination? What about all the killing in the Bible?

I am a Catholic, Jehovah Witness, Muslim. I don’t believe in God.

Come and see!!!

I remember the first time Andrew came to actual church and looked around. Wow!!! Then he invited his family.

John 1:47 What happened here?

A true Israelite: Wow!

Under the fig tree:

Jesus read Nathanael’s mind. This is the only way to explain his extreme reaction. Jesus knew what Nathanael knew Philip did not know.

Did Jesus do things like this with people often? I know you took the cookies from the cookie jar… I do not know. He did with the Samaritan woman at the well.

v. 49 “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

Theme of John: Revealing who Jesus is. Who is he?

Rabbi/Teacher

Son of God

King of Israel (and we, are spiritual Israel)

v. 41 Andrew to Peter: Messiah

John gets down to revealing who Jesus is right away.

[Does this contradict the synoptic gospels where Jesus does not say who he is? No! In these scenes it is not Jesus but others who say who Jesus is]

Nathanael realized that Jesus was the Son of God, just because Jesus said, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

This is the first sign/miracle of Jesus in John. Jesus knows exactly what you are thinking. Hopefully you will do what Nathanael did: Acknowledge him as God and as king!

Do you understand the implication? God knows what is going on in your mind and in your heart.

1:50-51 Reading your mind: That’s nothing. You will see that I AM HE

John 1:51 a reference to Jacob’s “ladder.” Genesis 28:10-13.

I am opening a way—a new way—of access to heaven for human beings.

Angels ascending and descending = God’s communicating to mankind through Jesus.

Jesus is the bridge between humans and God.

John 2:1-12 Jesus in Cana: Water to Wine. The first of Jesus seven signs in John.

Miracles have a pattern:

Miracle

Response or challenge

Follow-up teaching

Response

This one is different from all the others in that it was not a public miracle. It was done in private.

2:1 On the third day. This was a two-day walk from Bethsaida (Peter and Andrew’s home town). (Show the map)

Q: Why was Jesus at this wedding?

A: Because these were friends of the family and he was invited (along with Peter, James, John Andrew and Nathanael). Cana is very close to Nazareth. Nathanael is from Cana (John 21:2)

v. 3 Clearly Mary and Jesus were close family friends.

Apparently, Jesus went to an occasional party.

But… To run out of wine at a wedding banquet was a great social embarrassment.

v. 4 A surprising statement. Mother, I have started my ministry. Why do you involve me in civilian affairs?

My hour has not yet come. If I start doing miracles now, it will mess up God’s timing for my ministry. There is a definite plan here.

But, because you are my mother…

v. 5 “Do whatever he tells you.” Was Mary asking Jesus to work a miracle? Maybe…. She already believed she had a remarkable son! Sinless.

Why did Jesus do this miracle?

1. Because his mother asked him to.

2. Because of the great symbolical significance of the Marriage feast (Isaiah 25:4-6), and of turning water (purification to the Jews) to wine (purification for our sins).

Marriage feast Isaiah 25:4-6 Revelation 19:6-9

Jesus is inviting us to a spiritual wedding feast in the kingdom of God, which may explain why his first sign was given at a wedding feast.

empty jars = Jewish ritual wine = New Covenant

What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?

1. Jesus is Creator.

2. When he makes wine, he makes the best!!!

3. Jesus makes plenty of wine. We will not run out.

In Matthew, Mark and Luke Jesus’ miracles primarily point toward the Kingdom of God. This one does as well

John 2:11 The Greek word is not “miracle” it is “sign” In John, Jesus’ miracles point to something. They show something. They reveal who Jesus is.

In John, the miracles point out the glory of God and produce belief in Jesus. John 2:11

If you do not want to believe in Jesus, stay away from John.

In passing: John 2:12-13 Jesus stayed in Capernaum. This is the first of three Passovers mentioned in John (John 2:13, John 6:4 and John 11:55/13:1)

So, what did we learn about Jesus today?

Jesus is asking you, “What do you want?” Why are you here?

To those who do not yet know God, Jesus asking us to say, “Come and see!”

Jesus knows your very thoughts and actions. Negative: Not getting away with anything. Positive: God knows your heart and motives.

Jesus is Rabbi, he is Messiah, he is Son of God and he is King of Israel.

Jesus is opening a way, a portal of access to the Father.

Although Jesus is Messiah, Rabbi, Son of God and King of Israel, he is in many ways a regular guy. He goes to weddings with his friends and has a good time there.

Jesus is a miracle worker who makes good stuff that never runs out.