

September 16, 2018

John 2

A Miracle and a Scene

Have you ever been asked to show your identification? If so, what did you display to prove your identity?

In our modern culture we use identity cards such as our driver's license or student ID to identify ourselves. In Jesus' time there were no such identification cards. He couldn't prove He was the Son of God by pulling His ID out of His wallet. So how did Jesus prove He was the Messiah?

Jesus demonstrated His identity by the things He did. Every miracle He performed served as another piece of identification.

The purpose of the Gospel of John is to prove to its readers that Jesus Christ is the Son of God so that they can be saved (**John 20:31**). Because this is the purpose of the book, the Lord led John to write about events and actions that proved Jesus' identity. Two things in this week's lesson proved who Jesus was.

John 2:1-2 Where did Jesus, His mother (Mary), and His disciples go?

John 2:3 What did Mary tell Jesus?

Because water purification was not available, wine was the common drink at meals. Drinking water often made people sick, so they customarily mixed a little wine in with the water. The alcohol in the wine killed germs and bacteria, but didn't cause drunkenness unless taken in very large quantities.

John 2:4-5 Jesus said the wine was her concern, and not His. What did Mary tell the servants?

There were some large water pots nearby that contained 18-27 gallons of water each. The Jews used these for purification rituals.

John 2:7-8 What did Jesus tell the servants to do?

John 2:9-10 Jesus miraculously turned the water into wine. What did the "*governor*" or "*ruler*" of the feast say about this wine?

John 2:11 This was the **first** miracle Jesus performed. What did the miracle cause Jesus' disciples to do?

The fact that Jesus could perform miracles in the natural world proved to His disciples that He was truly the Son of God. Jesus, His family, and His disciples went to **Capernaum**.

John 2:13 Where did Jesus go, and why?

Passover was the holiest religious event on the Jewish calendar. Jews from all over the world came to Jerusalem to worship.

John 2:14 Who did Jesus find in the Temple?

The Jews were required to bring sacrificial animals to the Temple in order to worship. Those who traveled a long way couldn't bring their own animals, so merchants set up booths and sold animals. The Jews were also required to pay an annual Temple tax with a certain type of Jewish coin, so moneychangers made a business of selling the coins to Jews who had come from far away.

John 2:15 What did Jesus do?

John 2:16 Jesus told them all to leave the Temple. He said: "Make not my _____ house an house of _____."

John 2:17 Jesus' disciples remembered something they had read about the Messiah in **Psalm 69:9**. What does that say?

The Jews realized Jesus was doing things that showed He was the Messiah (the Son of God).

John 2:18 The Jews asked Jesus for a sign to prove He was the Messiah.

John 2:19 How did Jesus answer their request?

John 2:20 What did the Jews think Jesus meant?

John 2:21 What "temple" was Jesus actually speaking of?

John 2:22 When did Jesus' disciples remember these words?

John 2:23 "Many _____ in His name, when they saw the _____ which He did."

John 2:24-25 What does Jesus know?

Concluding Thoughts: Jesus performed a miracle at a wedding and He caused a scene in the holiest place in the Jewish world – Jerusalem's Temple. As different as those two events were, they both accomplished the same purpose. Both the miracle and the cleansing of the Temple showed those watching that Jesus Christ was God in human flesh, the promised Messiah.

Jesus showed His "ID" to the Jewish people. Many people believed in Him, but many others did not. Since Jesus knows all people, He knows which of us are true believers and which are not.

Jesus knows your heart right now. He doesn't need anyone to tell Him about you; He knows everything.

You may be able to fool others into thinking you are a Christian, but Jesus knows the truth. If you've never truly been saved, why don't you ask Jesus to save you right now? Call your Sunday School teacher if you need help. Do it now.

Project: Memorize **John 3:16-17**. Do the **Daily Bible Readings**, and be sure to come to Sunday School this Sunday.