

John: Chapters 2-3

Chapter 2

- V. 1 – And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there;
- V. 2 –and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding.
- V. 3 –And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”
- V. 4 –And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come.”
- SC: In other words, “it’s not time yet for me to do any miracles.” Now look at verse 5. This is a tool.
- V. 5 –His mother said to the servants “Whatever He says to you, do it.” → SC: Circle these words in your Bible, then circle the words “Do it” in v. 36, then draw a line to connect the two.
- SC: In other words, take action. So, throughout Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, when Jesus says to *do* something, *do* it. “Go ye into all the world and make disciples.” Do it. “Be fruitful and multiply.” Do it. Ask seek and knock. Do it. So go through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and find every verse where Jesus speaks and tells you to *do* something. Do it. But I take that even further as a directive for all of scripture. When God says to *do* something, do it. It’s just simple. This is one of the most powerful verses. This goes up there with “Seek peace and pursue it.” State of mind. “I die daily.” Your *daily* activity is to die. It amazes me how some of the most profound scriptures are simple and short. “Be not deceived. God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.” Responsibility. “I’ve been crucified with Christ. Yet it is not I who lives but Christ who lives in me.” Have you been crucified with Christ? Whatever He says to do, do it. Whatever He says to *you*, do it. Nothing can be more powerful and profound than that and these other *simple* verses.
- V. 6 –Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.
- SC: Those are heavy pots.
- V. 7 –Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.
- V. 8 –And He said to them, “Draw some out now, and take it to the headwaiter.” And they took it to him.
- V. 9 –And 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,
- V. 10 –and said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now.”
- V. 11 –This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana (SC: So this is the beginning of Him doing signs) of Galilee, and manifested His glory (SC: There’s that word “glory” again. What does that mean regarding Jesus?), and His disciples believed in Him.
- SC: So that means the disciples didn’t necessarily believe that He was the *Messiah* before now. Or the Christ. But they do now. After He produced fruit, or the result, of Messiahship, if you will. “You shall know my children by

their fruit.” There’s *another* passage, see. These simple, short passages are *huge* principles with *huge* implications.

- V. 12 –After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother, and His brothers, and His disciples; and there they stayed a few days.
- V. 13 –And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- V. 14 –And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated.
- V. 15 –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 moneychangers, and overturned their tables;
- V. 16 –and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a house of merchandise.”
- SC: Boy, think about that with the church *today*.
- V. 17 –His disciples remembered that it was written, “ZEAL FOR THY HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.”
- V. 18 –The Jews therefore answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?”
- SC: Now, think about it. He hadn’t done anything except make a big to-do about all the commerce going on in the temple. There’s no miracle done there, is my point.
- V. 19 –Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- V. 20 –The Jews therefore said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”
- V. 21 –But He was speaking of the temple of His body.
- V. 22 –When therefore 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.
- SC: They believed. Again, scripture.
- V. 23 –Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, beholding His signs which He was doing.
- SC: At this point He was doing a lot of miracles. It’s just not recorded in the Bible here. Now, what’s interesting, you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and compare them, and there are certain things mentioned in *one* gospel and not mentioned in the others.
- V. 24 –But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,
- V. 25 – and because He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man for He Himself knew what was in man.

Chapter 3

- 1 – Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;
- SC: So he was a Pharisee. He was a ruler of the Jews.
- 2 – this man came to Him by night, and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs (SC: Attesting miracles) that You do unless God is with him.”
- 3 – Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

- SC: Born again. That's the phrase. You've heard "born again." That's where the phrase comes from. And "Again" means "born from above."
- 4 – Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"
- 5 – Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, (SC: Why does He say "truly, truly"? Why doesn't He just say, "truly"? Why does He even say "truly"?) I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- 6 – "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 7 – "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'
- SC: That's a powerful verse. Because people *would* marvel. He's saying, "Don't marvel at that. There's other things to marvel at. That's not one of them, that's just a statement of fact."
- 8 – "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- 9 – Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"
- SC: You can't see the wind and you can't see the Spirit, is the point there.
- 10 – Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?"
- 11 – "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak that which we know, and bear witness of that which we have seen; and you do not receive our witness.
- 12 – "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"
- SC: That's a key verse right there. In other words, He's speaking of people and a person who's negative, critical, skeptical, rebellious. They doubt, they question, they challenge anybody and anything. So why bother with them? Why waste your time? Don't try to change their minds. Don't try to convince them. It doesn't work. Because their mindset is a habit, their mindset of being skeptical, doubtful. They chose it. Why would they want to abandon it? People resist change.
- 13 – "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.
- 14 – "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;
- 15 – that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.
- 16 – "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- SC: There you go. And how do you get that eternal life in verse 16? Look at verse 3. Verse 3 answers that.
- 17 – "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.
- SC: Wow! That is the total contrast to what *humans* do. Especially Christian humans. They don't focus on trying to save the world. They talk it but they don't act it. They focus on judging.
- 18 – "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- 19 – "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.
- SC: A person *loves* what they choose. Good or bad, right or wrong. And if someone chooses darkness or evil, love darkness. Remember that.
- 20 – "For everyone who does evil hates the light (SC: *Hates* the light. Strong), and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.
- 21 – "But he who practices (SC: Deliberate practice. Habit formation, right there.) the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

- SC: The key word in verse 21 is “practices.” He could have used a lot of other words; believe, preaches, practices. So you have to have a *lifestyle* of truth, a habit/lifestyle of truth. And truth sometimes can be quick and short and to the point and blunt and sharp. “the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit... Who could understand it.” That’s Hebrews. And there are many times when you may practice truth and it offends somebody, typically because they love darkness and their ways that they cover it up so the rest of the world doesn’t really see it.
- 22 – After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing.
- 23 – And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and they were coming and were being baptized.
- 24 – For John had not yet been thrown into prison.
- 25 – There arose therefore a discussion on the part of John’s disciples with a Jew about purification.
- 26 – And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have borne witness, behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him.”
- 27 – John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing, unless it has been given him from heaven.
- 28 – “You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’
- 30 – “He must increase, but I must decrease.
- 31 – “He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.
- 32 – “What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no man receives His witness.
- 33 – “He who has received His witness has set his seal to this, that God is true.
- SC: There’s the word “true.”
- 34 – “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.
- 35 – “The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.
- 36 – “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
- SC: “I desire obedience over sacrifice.” Obey. So a couple of interesting things about this verse: 1.) “He who believes in the Son has” present tense. Not “will have.” 2.) “but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life...” It doesn’t say “does not have life,” does not *see* life. So a person who chooses to practice disobedience is in darkness. As we saw earlier, people love their choices. So he doesn’t even *see* light, much less *have* light. And the keyword there is “obey,” obedience. And you tie this word “obey” in v. 36 to 2:5, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” See, that’s obedience.