

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

## ON MISSION (JOHN 2:1-12)

### THE BEGINNING

John begins chapter 1 by introducing Jesus as the Son of God. People needed to know Jesus wasn't just another prophet. He was the incarnation of God; the One for whom they had been waiting. That has huge implications because, in chapter 2, Jesus begins to prove who He is.

- **John proclaims this is the beginning.**

### WEDDING PLANS

Jesus and His disciples get invited to a wedding. Wedding celebrations in that day sometimes lasted a week. Since the family had an obligation to provide a feast, failure to provide enough food and wine would have been disastrous.

- Jesus begins His public ministry at a social event by responding to a need.

### LIVING ON MISSION

Here is the Savior of the world taking time out with His disciples to attend a wedding ceremony. Jesus sees the value in participating because it involves people. This social setting created an opportunity for Jesus to reveal Himself.

- **When we're available, God can use us to accomplish His purpose anywhere.**

### MARY KNOWS HER SON

Mary wasn't necessarily asking Jesus to perform a miracle; she was asking Him to help and trusted Him to do the right thing.

- Jesus' response is a little confusing. But Mary looks past it and says, "Do whatever he tells you." What she said is a spiritual principle for the life of a Christ follower.
- **Our response should be obedience!**

### "MY HOUR HAS NOT YET COME"

This statement covers two important concepts John speaks about throughout his book: purpose and timing. Jesus knew exactly why He was in the world and was committed to His purpose and the Father's timing. Mary, the disciples, Herod—no one can alter God's timing.

- **God doesn't operate on our timetable. We pray, ask for God's will, and trust.**

### SYMBOLISM

The water jars represent the nation of Israel: they're available, but they're not filled with the right thing. They ran out of wine, the people's supply was gone, yet their Messiah stood in their midst.

- Our lives are intended to glorify God, but we're empty until Jesus works a miracle.

**God can work the miraculous in someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit.**

### "FILL THE JARS WITH WATER"

John draws a comparison between the water pots and human life. People look everywhere but to Jesus for fulfillment. We are so enamored by what the world offers, yet it leaves us with no satisfaction. What the world offers eventually leads to emptiness.

- **Jesus offers us to come to Him for salvation and to be satisfied (John 10:10).**

### A LONG WALK

The servants filled the jars with water but sometime between the filling and serving the headwaiter, it became fine wine. This shows the great faith and obedience of the servants. We may not always know the best way to fix our problems.

- **We need to trust and submit to God and allow Him to do what He sees best.**

### ALCOHOL

Some commentators argue Jesus wouldn't have made intoxicating wine. That's hard to imagine because we know it was better than the first. This text doesn't support abstinence from alcohol. **However, the Bible is clear on the importance of moderation and sobriety (1 Peter 5:8, Acts 2, Galatians 5:21, Ephesians 5:1-20, and more).**

### MORE SYMBOLISM

Just as this wedding ran out of wine, we ran out of fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden. Sin entered the world along with shame and guilt. This is how sin works. Sin entices us with all its pleasures and best pictures, but in the end, it leads to death. (James 1:15)

- **Eventually, the pleasures of sin and this world runs out.**

### TWO THINGS HAPPENED

Jesus revealed His glory, and the disciples believed. Surely the disciples had faith, but now it was strengthened (1 John 1:14). Eventually, they would fully understand.

- Jesus was about to replace the need for cleansing water by shedding His blood on the cross.
- **We confess and believe (Romans 10:9-10).**

## THE TEMPLE (JOHN 2:13-5)

### PASSOVER

Passover celebrated the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Specifically, remembering the passing of death over the Israelites (Exodus 12).

- This was an annual celebration, and everyone was expected to be there to bring sacrifices. Some traveled a long way and needed to buy animals for sacrifice.

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Sacrifices had to be brought or purchased. The temple of God was supposed to be used for prayer and worship, but they'd turned it into a place to make money.

- **Too often, we cheapen worship to be about us and fellowship. True worship is about meeting with God and responding to what He has done for us.**

### ANGER ISN'T ALL BAD

Jesus had this desire to protect what worship was all about. Jesus was mad! He runs everyone out of the temple because they'd turned the temple into a place of chaos and commercialism.

- **It's not wrong to be angry, but there's a difference between righteous anger and anger that leads to sin (James 1:19-20).**

### ANOTHER SIGN

The Jews were always looking for a sign (1 Corinthians 1:22), so Jesus gave them another one. "Destroy this temple and I will raise it up in three days." They thought He was talking about the temple started by Herod in 20 B.C.

- Jesus wasn't talking about the temple made of stones, but about His body. Jesus was placing Himself above the temple.

### THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

Jesus was often misunderstood. Not because the people weren't intelligent, but because they were unwilling to hear the truth. It wasn't until after Jesus' resurrection the disciples would remember.

- This is still true. **The Word of God is offensive to those who hold to demands of their own truth.**

### "THEY BELIEVED THE SCRIPTURE"

Jews placed a higher value on the temple and all their religious practices than listening to God in the flesh. We need to have "ears to hear" what the Spirit is saying. They didn't even recognize their Messiah (John 1:26).

- **As followers of Christ, we must settle the authority of Scripture and accept its correction and instruction.**

### STUBBORNNESS

Many were so steeped in their culture and beliefs they were unwilling to see the truth that was right in front of them.

- **How much more does God have to do? Our way isn't working. Society is worse now than it's ever been, and we still want to find our own way. We don't even realize how desperate we are (Revelation 3:17).**

### FAITH

The book of John teaches that believing is seeing, not the other way around. Jesus came as our Savior, and "in Him is life." John the Baptist didn't "look" the part, so the Jews didn't believe him.

- **The reason so many miss Jesus is because we're looking for a God who looks a lot like we do.**

### A STRONG STATEMENT

The fact that "Jesus would not entrust himself to them" says a lot about what He knows. Jesus knew their hearts. The word believe doesn't always mean a person has placed their faith in Jesus.

- **We can do a lot of things that look like a Christ follower and never have a saving faith in Jesus (James 2:19-20)!**

### DO SIGNS MATTER

- **Is Jesus who He says He is? That's the first thing we need to settle. Do we believe Jesus is the Messiah?**
- **What sign are we looking for?**
- **God has been pursuing us since the creation of time (Acts 17:24-31).**
- **He has revealed Himself through the Word!**

### THE TEMPLE

- **We are Christ's representatives. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Are we living for His glory? Are we effective witnesses everywhere?**
- **Worship isn't just what we do on the weekends. It's living our entire life to bring glory to God.**

### THE MISSION

- **What do we need to change so we reflect God's glory?**
- **Is your relationship with Jesus about what's in it for you?**
- **Is our faith real?**
- **Look for opportunities everywhere to glorify God.**