

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

GLORY (JOHN 2:1-12)

WEDDING, WATER, OR WINE?

At the first reading, we may be familiar with this "first sign." It was a wedding, and we can see some similarities to modern weddings, but this isn't a wedding story. We see water that was used for purification, but this isn't a water story. We see wine that miraculously, instantly was made from water, but this isn't a wine story.

- **This is a story of Christ's glory revealed.**

TIMING

Mary knew who Jesus was and turned to Him in a time of need. His verbal response was tender, firm, and revealing. These two short sentences show us that Jesus had assumed His role as a servant leader that would always align Himself with the will of the Father.

- **Jesus will always respond to our requests, but we must have faith that His response will be for our good and His glory in His time.**

REVELATION

Mary's last recorded words are a testament to her faith: "Do whatever He tells you." Even more revealing is who will see this miracle.

- **Everyone there was in the presence of Jesus. Most only appreciated the flavor of the wine and recognized the host. Jesus revealed His glory to His disciples and those who served. Mary was faithful, and the servants, obedient.**

ZEAL (JOHN 2:13-22)

THE TEMPLE

Jesus goes to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. While there, He sees corruption in His Father's House. The hypocritical religious leaders were false shepherds who exploited the people for personal gain and power.

- **Church buildings are not the Temple, but there are still religious leaders corrupted by sinful desires. We must always be aware of our motives and the motives of those who lead us.**

RIGHTEOUS LOVE

What Jesus did that day wasn't an act of raw anger. He recognized that God's glory was being redirected to material things and sought to set it right.

- **Christ is still working to cleanse the "temple." Are we willing to let Him? Being conformed to the image of Christ will require some changes in our lives. Changes that will always glorify God. Changes that He will make in love.**

A SIGN

The religious leaders were furious and wanted to know by what authority Christ had done these things.

- **Christ had cleansed the Temple out of love for His Father and would one day sacrifice Himself out of Love for His followers. The legal system was ending, and "grace and truth" would come through Jesus Christ.**

KNOWLEDGE (JOHN 2:23-25)

BELIEVE

While many saw signs and "believed," there was still something missing. Jesus did not entrust Himself to them.

- **Jesus has always known the difference between "sign followers" and "Jesus followers." Miracles can only lead us to the Word. The Word generates saving faith that creates followers of Jesus.**

SERVICE

- Many will live in the presence of Christ.
- **Some will see His signs.**
- **Those who surrender to Him will trust Him, follow Him, and live in obedience to Him (Romans 12:1). They are the ones who will see Him above all the signs.**

LOVE

- Christ cleansed the Temple out of love for His Father.
- **Christ sacrificed Himself out of love for us.**
- **Our response should be to allow His love to change us as we live to love and follow Him.**

COMMITMENT

- How many have heard of Christ?
- How many have seen the changes Christ has made in the lives of His followers?
- How many have truly surrendered to Him? We must allow the truth of His miracles to open our hearts to the truth of His message. We must respond to our Savior.