

Jesus' Ministry Begins – John 1:43–2:25



MEMORY VERSE: “You will see greater things than these.” And Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” John 1:50b-51

DAY 1 JOHN 1:43-51 — Philip and Nathaniel

1. Describe these two men from this initial introduction. vv.43-46
Philip

Nathaniel

2. Why did Nathaniel change his mind about Jesus? vv.47-49
3. What do you think Jesus meant by His response to Nathaniel? vv.50-51

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus Christ is the “Son of Man,” fully God and fully human. The deity of Christ began to be revealed through the humanity of Christ as He lived among people and participated in life with them. Thank God that He is with us today and not only cares, but is involved in the details of our personal lives.

4. Can you think of a time you missed out on an encounter with God because of some kind of prejudice?
5. When have you, like Nathaniel, been impacted by a surprising personal encounter with Jesus?

DAY 2 JOHN 1:14-18 — JOHN 2:1-11 — The Wedding at Cana

6. What do you learn about Jesus as a person from verses 1 and 2?

1 Thessalonians 2:8

7. What is your immediate impression about the exchange between Mary and Jesus? vv.3-5

8. What does Jesus' verbal response to His mother tell you about what is important to Him?

Luke 2:41-52

9. What did Jesus do about the wine running out at the wedding? vv.6-11

10. What did the master of the feast say about the wine Jesus had created?

DAY 3 JOHN 2:1-11 — The Wedding at Cana continued

11. Look at the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. What are the commands in verses 3-6 and 12? How did Jesus obey both these commandments at the wedding at Cana?
v.3-6

v.12

12. Think again about the way Mary approached Jesus and His response. What from this encounter can we apply to our own lives when we approach God, or even our own parents or offspring?

13. How do you imagine each of the people at the wedding were impacted by this miracle?
Mary

Servants

Master of the feast

Bridegroom

Disciples

14. What do you learn about the character of God from the wedding at Cana?

15. What is the purpose of this first miraculous sign by Jesus and all other miracles of God? v. 11

John 20:30-31

DAY 4 JOHN 2:12-17 — Passover in Jerusalem

16. Considering their experience at Cana, and what was to come, what do you suppose Jesus and His family and disciples talked about during their 3 days in Capernaum?

17. What is significant about the timing of Jesus' revelation of Himself publicly? Exodus 12:1-14

Matthew 3:11-12

18. What did Jesus find inside the temple that made Him so angry? Why was this evil and what did Jesus do about it?

19. How might each of the people in the temple have felt about Jesus' actions?
Money changers and sellers of sacrificial animals

Devout worshippers

Religious leaders

Disciples

20. How do you think we can protect God's "house" from becoming a "place of trade" today?

DAY 5

JOHN 2:18-25 – Signs From Jesus

21. The Jews did not approve of Jesus' behavior in the temple so they demanded a sign to prove that He had the right to reap such destruction. What "sign" did He give them?

22. How did the Jews respond to the "sign" He gave them? What did they think He meant?

23. Jesus' words did not make sense in the moment, but how did they affect the disciples later? v.22

24. What happened when Jesus performed "signs" in Jerusalem? vv. 23,24

25. Why did Jesus not entrust Himself to the people who believed in Him because of his signs?

1 Samuel 16:7

LOVE THE TRUTH

We love signs from God, and He graciously gives them to us. But our love for Him must not be based only on what we see, but on what we know to be true about who He is and what His Word says about Jesus and all things pertaining to life. God sees our hearts which are of the utmost importance to Him.

John 1:43–2:25

Jesus' Ministry Begins

Nazareth was an obscure town, not even mentioned in the Old Testament. It had no center of higher education and no great leaders came from this town. In Christ's day, Nazarenes were looked down on, rejected and even despised. And yet God saw fit to have the Savior of the world grow up in this crummy little town.

Jesus refers to Himself the "Son of Man," a name used 83 times in the New Testament, 13 of them in the book of John. Jesus, as the Son of Man, is both God and human. When Jesus told Nathaniel that he would see "heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (v.51) it is a reference to Jacob's ladder (Gen 28:12) when God gave Jacob the assurance that He was always accessible to him. Jesus now implies that He is the ladder and our means of communicating with God.

Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana was quite fitting. It not only revealed both His deity and humanity, but might be seen as a subtle picture of Christ as the Bridegroom. Running out of wine at a wedding would be disgraceful and humiliating. When Jesus said, "My hour has not yet come," the Greek word used was not "chronos," as in the way time is measured, but "kairos," meaning the appropriate time. Historically the Jews believed that the love between the bridegroom and bride was a picture of the relationship between God Jehovah and His people, Israel. Then Jesus Christ came and is called the Bridegroom who gave His life for His bride, the church, and will return for her one day in glory. (Ephesians 5:25,26; Matthew 25:1-13)

After the wedding at Cana, Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover and was furious when He found thievery inside the temple. Honest worshippers were being cheated by having to pay inflated prices for sacrificial animals. Each person also had to pay a temple tax of 1/2 shekel, but because of Roman rule there were

not many shekels in circulation so they had to buy them with Roman coins at an extremely high exchange rate. God loves honest seekers and it is vital that they find life-saving truth in His house and are not distracted or deceived by things going on that are not of Him. For this reason, Jesus cleansed the temple twice, once at the beginning and again at the end of His earthly ministry. We too must carefully guard the purity of our churches today. The gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached. Grace must abound and lives must be changed. Disciples of Christ must be made and God must be glorified. Beware of any plan, program or teaching that distracts from God's truth and purpose.

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you grasp the significance of the fact that Jesus went from turning water into wine at a wedding to angrily cleansing the temple at Passover? Do you appreciate the connection between Christ being the bridegroom and the church being the bride of Christ? Paul gave this instruction to believers, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." Not only is the church the bride of Christ, but every Christian is also God's temple. "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" Jesus Christ is Himself the Passover Lamb who has been sacrificed for us. Let these truths shape your very existence. (Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 5:7)

Notes