

Gospel of John Study Notes

John 2 – Part 2

The Gospel of John, Chapter 2, contains two events that mark the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry from John's perspective.

- John 2:1-12, Jesus Changes Water into Wine
- John 2:13-25, Jesus Clears the Temple Courts



Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

The Apostle John makes a particular point of telling this story near the beginning of his Gospel account. The Synoptics place the event much later in Jesus' ministry (see p.3).

Look for the term "sign or signs": John 2:23, 4:54, 6:2, 6:14, 6:26, 7:31, 9:16, 10:41. John is clearly building a roadmap for us to use in understanding his Case for Christ.

Our Jewish forefathers were not ignorant people. They created systems to avoid the devastating effects of Jeroboam back in the days of Kings, before the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles.

- How did they get to the point where the temple has become a marketplace?
- What was the basis for Jesus' actions? Why was he not tossed in jail?
- How did the temple leaders respond? Did anyone disagree with what Jesus did?

If Jesus were to arrive at a church in this city, would he build a whip and clear the foyer or would he praise God for what is happening there?

Compare both stories in chapter 2, what are the similarities?

NIVAC: *John expects that at the end of chapter 2, we will pause and reflect on both this story in Jerusalem and the story of Cana. In each episode, similar themes challenge us, and we are invited to contrast them. Cana is in the north (Galilee); Jerusalem is in the south (Judea). Cana offered stone jars (for purification) and now Jesus has challenged a stone temple (for sacrifice). Cana was out of wine and the temple was likewise filled with the wrong thing. Jesus' solution in each case is to provide an alternative: He will be the giver of new wine and will become a new temple.¹*

*He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.
John 1:11*

¹ Wilkins, Michael J.; Garland, David E.; Bock, Darrell L.; Burge, Gary M.; Fernando, Ajith. NIVAC Bundle 6: Gospels, Acts (The NIV Application Commentary). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

John 2:13-25

New International Version

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, **"Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"** ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, **"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."**

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

Jesus at the Temple

Matthew 21:12-13 New International Version

¹² Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

Mark 11:15-17 New International Version

¹⁵ On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, ¹⁶ and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. ¹⁷ And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

Luke 19:45-46 New International Version

⁴⁵ When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. ⁴⁶ "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be a house of prayer'; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

Some Greek to consider

John provides a telling wordplay in 2:24. The same Greek word translated "believe" in verse 23 appears in verse 24: Even though some of these people believed in him . . . Jesus would not believe in them.²

²³ ...saw the signs he was performing and believed (pisteuō) in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust (pisteuō) himself to them, for he knew all people.

G4409 πιστεύω **pisteuō**, v. [241] [v [4412](#)]. to believe, put one's faith in, trust, with an implication that actions based on that trust may follow; (pass.) entrust:– believe (121), believed (61), believes (25), believers (8), believing (4), entrusted (3), trusts (3), believed on (1), committed to (1), did^s (1), do (1), entrust (1), entrusted with (1), entrusted with task (1), faith (1), have faith (1), put faith (1), put trust (1), rely on (1), took at word (1 [+[3836](#), 3364]), trust (1), trust with (1), trusted (1). **NIV Exhaustive Concordance Dictionary** - Copyright © 2015 by Zondervan.

² Wilkins, Michael J.; Garland, David E.; Bock, Darrell L.; Burge, Gary M.; Fernando, Ajith. NIVAC Bundle 6: Gospels, Acts (The NIV Application Commentary). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.