

JOHN 2

John 2 records Jesus' first miracle. Do you think miracles still happen today?

Read John 2:1-11.

- Describe the miracle Jesus performs.
- Why do people believe in miracles/not believe in miracles?
- What do you think John wants us to know about Jesus by recording his attendance at a wedding?
- Describe your response to this miracle (amazement, skepticism, disbelief, etc.). Be honest.
- John describes this as a "sign" in verse 11. Why do you think he used the word sign rather than miracle?
- What do you think is significant about this being the first sign?

Read John 2:13-25.

The Passover Celebration was a spring festival celebrating Israel's freedom from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12:12-16). In the Exodus account, God commanded the Jewish people to place the lamb's blood over their outside doors. He would "pass over" the houses with the blood, sparing the people inside from judgment. To celebrate this Passover, Jews would eat a special meal together, remembering how God had "passed over" them, sparing them from judgment and securing their freedom from Egyptian slavery. Jewish people from across the Roman Empire would return to Jerusalem for this feast, almost doubling the city's population.

The Jewish temple was strictly divided between people who were Jews by birth and Jews by conversion. Converted Jews worshipped in one area labeled the Court of the Gentiles. Each converted Jew had to pay a temple tax to worship. Since people were coming from around the Roman Empire with a variety of national currencies, they had to convert their currency to the temple money in order to pay the tax and purchase suitable animals for sacrifice. Worship had become a big business.

- Describe the scene at the temple in Jerusalem.
- What do you think led Jesus to take such dramatic steps to clear the temple?
- What does this incident reveal about Jesus?
- If Jesus were to return today, what things do you think He would want to clear out of our churches?
- What does Jesus think about the beliefs of the people in verses 23-25?
- What type of belief do you think He would find to be appropriate?
- If you were in the crowd, how would Jesus look upon your beliefs?