

BIBLE STUDY: LESSON 5

Scripture of Lesson: John 2: 1~25

1. The first miracle at Cana and its meaning
 - a. Apparently Mary was well aware of Jesus' ability to perform miracles. She presented the need for more wine to Jesus. What was Jesus' response to Mary's presentation of the need at the wedding and why such a cold rebuttal and yet compliance?
 - b. Transformation of water to wine – What could be a spiritual lesson from this miracle?
 - c. How did this miracle help the disciples' faith in Jesus?
2. Cleansing of the Temple: lessons to us
 - a. First temple built by Solomon [I Kings 6: 38, mid-10th century BC], destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar [II Kings 24: 13, 587 BC]; restoration ordered by Cyrus [Ezr 1: 7-11],
 - b. Rebuilt by Zerubbabel [Ezr 2:68-69; Ne 7: 70-72] as prophesied by Daniel 8:13-14
 - c. Herod's temple, built in 46 years [John 2: 20] by Herod the Great [37~4BC]
 - d. Uses of the temple
 - i. A dwelling place of the Lord [I Kings 8:10-11] to contain the ark of the covenant [I Kings 8:21]
 - ii. For offering of fragrant incense, for regular offering of consecrated bread and burnt offerings, for prayer and worship
 - iii. For prayers made towards; for weapons storage; for storage of treasures
 - e. Animal offered as sacrifice had to be "clean, without blemish." [Lev 22:21-22]
 - f. Jesus referred to the temple as "my Father's house" [v. 16] and as "my house" in Mark 11:17. What is the significance of this statement? [Isiah 56:7, I Cor 3:16]
 - g. V. 19 "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." Connect this verse with v. 21 and attempt to understand Jesus' motive of this early declaration of His sacrifice to come.
 - h. What/where is the Lord's temple today? I Cor 3:16. Also contemplate on Jeremiah's prophecy [Jer 3:16].
3. Jesus' miracles and His mission work
 - a. A miracle is an occurrence that is not explained by natural or scientific laws.
 - b. Jesus performed many miracles [35 recorded in gospels, 7 in John's]. What was the intent and utility of the miracles in the 1st century?
 - c. V.12 –Apparently Mary and Jesus' brothers accompanied Him during the early days of His ministry for a number of days. What must have happened afterwards? Discuss the burden of family on a servant of God in ministry.
4. Miracles of today
 - a. Do miracles occur in Christian evangelic works today? If they seem rare events, why so?
 - b. Has human perception of miracle changed over time? From understanding of the changing nature of our perception, discuss the human tendency to be critical of biblical description of Jesus' ministry and God's work based on human reason and scientific knowledge.