

Son of Man

Portraits of Jesus—John 2

January 10, 2021

Son of Man is a term used of Jesus that both depicts His humanity and His divinity. Chapter 2 is divided into two episodes. The first is the miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding. The second episode is the cleansing of the temple.

DAY 1: Water turned to wine

John 2:1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

1. Weddings were community events. “Everyone” was invited. They were also times of feasting and toasting.

John 2:3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁴ "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

2. Here is the uniqueness of Jesus displayed. His mother knows He is no ordinary young man.

3. What do you think Jesus means by “My time has not yet come?” Why wasn’t Jesus eager to do a miracle?

John 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

4. How do you observe about this miracle and the way it occurred?

John 2:9 ...Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

5. The master of the banquet, the equivalent of an event coordinator was stunned at this turn of events. What normally happened was the more expensive wine was served first, and then the cheap wine was served last.

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 2: Water turned into wine: the meaning

1. There are two important teaching points which should draw our attention. Here is the first one.

*John 2:4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My **time** has **not yet** come."*

2. The Greek word for time is “ora,” from which we get our word “hour”. This could also be translated, “My hour has not yet come.”

a. He says this same thing four other times in the gospel of John (7:6, 8, 20; 8:20).

b. Conversely Jesus says His time **has** come three times in John (12:23; 13:1; 17:1).

3. His “hour” is not about miracles. His hour is all about the redemption of people. The center piece will be the cross.

John 12:27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

4. The second important teaching point is this one.

John 2:11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

“... miraculous sign ...”

5. Gk. (Semeion) “Sign.” John’s use of this word and this phrase emphasizes the meaning of the miracle, not the miracle itself. A sign points us in the right direction. It is not the sign that is important but what the sign signified.

6. Miracles revealed different things. They revealed the:

1. Power and providence of God.
2. Heart of God.
3. Love of God.
4. Hope of God, that there is a life coming where all things will be made new.

“...He thus revealed his glory...”

7. The glory of God is seen in:

a. Miracles. (See Exodus 16:7).

b. Absolute holiness (Isaiah 6)

c. God’s absolute, completely other-centered, sacrificial love.

8. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: Jesus Cleanses the Temple

1. There were two temple cleansings. This one was at the beginning of His ministry. The second cleansing was at the end of His ministry and was one of the key factors in His death.

2. This story illustrates our infernal tendency to always put something else higher than the Lord.

John 2:14 In the temple courts he found men 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 area, 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! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

3. This propensity has its obvious applications in greed and materialism, but it also seen in three subtle ways:

- a. Some of those selling animals for sacrifice and those exchanging money probably considered they were just doing part of the Lord's work.
- b. The Jewish leaders who encouraged these men in their endeavor.
- c. The Jewish leaders put their religious traditions and practice ahead of the Lord.

Malachi 3:1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. ² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

"...my Father's house..."

4. Jesus often referred to God as *my* Father. (See Matt. 11:27).

"...into a market."

5. There were several problems in the temple.

- a. It had become depersonalized. People were supposed to bring their own animals. Many out of convenience chose not to do this. (Deut. 12:5-7)
- b. Greed and exorbitant pricing, both from the animal sellers and money changers.
- c. The location was on the temple grounds, specifically the Court of the Gentiles. Worship became impossible for them.

6. The express purpose of the temple was to enable and focus attention of the worship of God. That purpose had been replaced by the process of which worship occurred.

"Zeal for your house will consume me." This prophecy is from Psalm 69:9.

Psalms 69:9 ...for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me. ¹⁰ When I weep and fast, I must endure scorn; ¹¹ when I put on sackcloth, people make sport of me.

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: The demanding human hearts

1. There are few passages in scripture that contrast both the divine holiness and love of God with the fiendish and self-centered demandingness of the human heart.

*John 2:18 Then the Jews **demanded of him**, "What miraculous 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 The Jews 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.*

“... miraculous sign ... to prove your authority...”

2. They demanded an immediate sign. The sign He actually gave them was His crucifixion and resurrection!

“... demanded ...”

3. Demand is one of the hallmarks of our sinful nature. Whether our demand is loud and obnoxious or “quiet” and conspicuous, it still performs its dastardly deeds. It erodes our faith in God by putting expectations on God of how He must relate to us. The expectations here are:

- a. Prove yourself.
- b. Prove yourself in the way we want proof—by a miracle.

4. They did not ask themselves if what Jesus did was a good and needful thing. They did not ponder the possibility that they were in the wrong.

5. They immediately reacted with **blame** and **accusation**, insinuating that he had no right to cleanse the temple and drive out the money changers.

6. They **challenged** Him with the impossible—perform a miracle. If Jesus had been a fraud no miracle would have occurred, thus validating their supposed claim.

1 Cor. 1:22 Jews demand miraculous signs...

7. They had turned the man serves God relationship into a God serves man relationship. This destroys a love relationship with God, heightens our pride, and centers our lives around ourselves.

8. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 5: Stunning observations about human nature.

1. After Jesus cleansed the temple and the demands of the religious leaders, John ends chapter two with some stunning and revealing truths about our fallen nature.

John 2:23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.

²⁴ *But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.*

²⁵ *He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.*

“...many believed in his name...”

2. Many is a significant number. The signs were public, “out there” for all to see.

3. Believe. Gk. (pisteuo). In the next verse John uses a wordplay with “episteusan” which is the same root word. Jesus did not “entrust” Himself to these people. The word play contrasts “easy believism” with “heart entrusting.”

“... the signs ...”

4. The beginnings of faith started here with miracles which were like signposts to His being the Messiah. These are the lowlands of faith. The context implies this faith was not saving faith, but just a faith in Jesus’ ability to perform miracles. There are lots of examples of “belief” that is inadequate, especially Judas and the episode in John 6:60-66.

John 2:24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.

“...knew what was in man.”

5. The clear reading is He knew our depravity.

“...entrust...”

6. We are called to entrust ourselves to God in every way. Only God has a perfect love that never fails. He is full of mercy and grace. He is where our deepest needs are met.

7. Humans are naturally self-serving. What will follow will be expectations, demands, assumed slights and grievances. These are inevitable. Conversely we will then give birth to our own demands and expectations. We will assume slights and hold grievances and grudges.

John 2:25 He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.

8. He did not need man’s validation. Placing our validation into the hands of people is a bad idea!

Prov. 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trust in the Lord is kept safe.

9. What strikes you from today’s devotional.