

FIRST DISCIPLES; FIRST MIRACLE; FIRST CONFLICT

John 1:19 - 2:25

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Jesus and John the Baptist

Key-locations: Jordan River, Cana, and Jerusalem

Key-repetitions:

- John the Baptist emphasized the importance of Jesus (Mt 3:11; Jn 1:29, 35-36; 3:27-30).
- Jesus gave people individual attention: two disciples of John the Baptist (Jn 1:35-39); Simon Peter (Jn 1:42); Nathanael (Jn 1:47-51).
- People testified about Jesus: John the Baptist (Jn 1:35; 3:27-36); Andrew (Jn 1:41-42); Philip (Jn 1: 45-46).

Key-attitudes:

- The admiration of John the Baptist for Jesus.
- The humility of John the Baptist.
- The faith in Jesus of Andrew and Philip.
- The honest doubt of Nathanael.
- Mary's concern when there was no wine at the wedding.
- The banquet master's pleasant surprise when he tasted the wine Jesus had produced from water.
- Jesus' devotion for the Temple and his anger against

those who turned it into a market place.

- The antagonism of the Jewish leaders who questioned him about his cleansing the Temple.

Initial-situation:

When Jesus began the first year of his ministry, he was unknown outside of the town of Nazareth. John the Baptist was famous, and crowds were going to hear him and to be baptized by him.

Jesus began his public ministry at the Jordan River when he was baptized by John. Then, in the desert, he resisted temptations from Satan.

Initial-problem:

The Jewish religious leaders of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John the Baptist who he was.

Final-situation:

While Jesus was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw his miraculous signs and believed in him. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew what was in a person's mind.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus' First Disciples Jn 1:19-51

The Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John the Baptist who he was. John told the truth, "I'm not the Christ." Then he answered them in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "I'm the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Some who were sent to question John were Pharisees; they asked him, "Why do you baptize people, if you are not the Christ?"

John replied, "I only baptize people with water, but a person you don't recognize comes after me. I am not even worthy to untie the strings of his sandals" (Jn 1:19-28).

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and shouted, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I was talking about, 'A man will come after me, but he is greater than me because he was living before me.'"

"I saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and remain on him. God, who sent me to baptize with water, told me, 'When you see the Holy Spirit come down and stay on a man, you'll know that he's the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I saw it happen with him, and I testify that this is the Son of God" (Jn 1:29-34).

The next day John was with two of his disciples when he saw Jesus walking nearby. John said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

The two disciples heard John, so they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them

following and asked, "What do you want?"

They answered, "Teacher, where are you staying?"

Jesus replied, "Come with me, and you will see."

The two went and saw where Jesus was staying, and spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon (Jn 1:35-39).

Andrew, Simon's brother, was one of the two who heard John's words and followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah." ("*Messiah*" means "*Christ*".) Andrew took his brother to Jesus.

Jesus looked at Simon and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (Jn 1:40-42). (The word "*Cephas*," when translated, means "*Peter*" or "*Rock*.")

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and invited him, "Follow me."

The hometown of Philip, Andrew and Peter was Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and the one the prophets wrote about. He is Jesus from Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Nathanael asked, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

Philip replied, "Come, see for yourself."

Jesus saw Nathanael approaching and said, "Here is a true Israelite; nothing is false about him."

Nathanael asked, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Nathanael declared, "Teacher, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Jesus said, "You believe because I say I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that. I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open and God's angels going up and coming down on the Son of Man" (Jn 1:43-51).

Water Changed to Wine Jn 2:1-11

Three days later, a wedding took place in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

Jesus replied, "Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come."

His mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Six stone water jars were there, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing. The Jews followed a ritual to wash themselves before eating, before worshiping and at other special times. Each jar held from 20 to 30 gallons.

Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the jars with water." They filled the jars to the brim. Then Jesus ordered them, "Pour some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

When the master of the banquet tasted the water, it had been turned into wine. He didn't know where the wine came from, but the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then the master of the banquet called the bridegroom and said, "Everyone serves their finest wine first, and after the guests drink a lot, they serve the cheap stuff. But you have saved the best wine until now" (Jn 2:1-10).

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He revealed the first glimpse of his glory, and his disciples believed in him (Jn 2:11).

First Cleansing of the Temple

It was almost time for the Jewish Passover, celebrated each spring by the Jews, and Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. Jesus found, in the Temple courts, different men selling cattle, sheep and

doves. He found moneychangers sitting at tables, exchanging money. Jesus made a whip out of cords, and chased them from the Temple area, stampeding the sheep and cattle. Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers, scattering their coins. He told the dove merchants, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a marketplace!"

His disciples remembered the Scripture, "Zeal for your house consumes me" (Jn 2:12-17).

The Jewish leaders demanded of Jesus, "What miracle can you perform as a sign to prove you have authority to do all this?"

Jesus answered, "Destroy this Temple, and I will rebuild it in three days."

The Jews replied, "It took 46 years to build this Temple; you are going to rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus referred to his body as the Temple. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled his words. Then they believed both the Scripture and the words spoken by Jesus (Jn 2:18-22).

While Jesus was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw his miraculous signs and believed in him. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all. He did not need anyone to tell him about people. He knew what was in a person's mind (Jn 2:23-25).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who were some of the people who told others about Jesus?
2. Who were some of the people who received individual attention from Jesus?
3. What was the first miracle that Jesus performed?
4. What did Jesus do that created a conflict at the Temple?
5. How does the knowledge that Jesus knows what is in a person's mind affect you?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. The blood of animals cannot pay the price for mankind's sin; therefore, God sent Jesus to the world to pay the price for people's sin and to free from eternal punishment all who trust him. John the Baptist introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God (Jn 1:29, 35-36). Old Testament narratives reveal what the words "Lamb of God" meant for John.
 - Just as God provided a lamb for Abraham (Gn 22:8), to be sacrificed in Isaac's place, he sent Jesus to take the place of all who trust him.
 - The Passover Lamb. Before the angel of death passed through Egypt, God ordered each Israelite family to kill a lamb and put its blood on the door threshold of their house. The lamb died in the place of the firstborn child (Ex 12).
 - The one who takes the people's sin and is offered as the Lamb of the Atonement (Lev 14).
 - The Suffering Servant, who is taken to the slaughterhouse (Is 53:7, 8, 12).
2. Those who discover Jesus should tell others about him. Examples: John, the author of the Gospel (Jn 1:14), John the Baptist (Jn 1:35-36), Andrew (Jn 1:40-41), and Philip (Jn 1:43-45).
3. Believers in Jesus need to testify about him. John the Baptist, Andrew and Philip are examples of how to testify (Jn 1:35-51).

- Give importance to the person Jesus Christ (1:36, 41, 45);
 - Start by telling family members and close friends (Jn 1:41, 45);
 - After personally discovering Jesus, invite others also to experience him (Jn 1:41, 45);
 - Challenge the one who criticizes Jesus to investigate him (Jn 1:46).
4. Transformation occurs when Jesus gives orders; however, he doesn't act when he is ordered. When Mary tried to give orders to Jesus, he did not act (Jn 2:3-4). When Mary told the servants to obey Jesus (Jn 2:5) he transformed water into wine (Jn 2: 6-9).
5. The purification of the Temple reveals that Jesus is irritated with religion (Jn 2:13-22):
- When it is secularized. When those who are committed to the true religion behave just like those who do not believe in the Lord God, Jesus is angered. The religious people at the Temple were exploiting the people, just like non-believers did in the market place;
 - When it is marketed. When religious people seek financial advantages with the true religion, Jesus is angered;
 - When it is without reverence. The noise of the animals and merchants put an end to the reverence in the Temple;
 - When it is creating barriers for those who want to know God. The trade was conducted in the part of the Temple reserved for non-Jews.