

BIBLE READING DAY 5, THURSDAY: MARCH 3

Jesus Calls First Disciples,

John 1:35-51

The next day, John was standing with two of his disciples, and seeing Jesus pass by, he exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him and followed Jesus.

Jesus turned and, seeing them following him, said, "What do you want?"

"Rabbi," they said (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

"Come, and you shall see," said Jesus.

They came and saw where he was staying, and remained with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John's exclamation and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said, "We have found the Messiah!" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him intently and said, "You are Simon, the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

The next day, Jesus determined to go into Galilee, and he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said, "We have found him of whom Moses wrote in the law and of whom the prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" replied Nathanael. "Come and see!" said Philip.

When he saw Nathanael coming to him, Jesus said, "Behold, a true son of Israel, in whom is no guile!"

"How can you know anything about me?" asked Nathanael.

"Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you," answered Jesus.

"Rabbi," exclaimed Nathanael, "you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

"Do you believe in me because I said, 'I saw you under the fig tree'? You will see greater things than that," said Jesus. "I tell you truly, you will all see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Jesus Turns Water to Wine, Cleanses the Temple, John 2:1–25

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and Jesus's mother was there. Jesus was invited to the marriage and his disciples. When the supply of wine failed, Jesus's mother said to him, "They have no wine."

"Woman, what have you to do with me?" said Jesus. "My hour has not yet come."

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

Now there were six stone jars standing there, for use in the purification rites of the Jews, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. "Fill the jars with water," said Jesus, and they filled them to the brim. "Now draw some out," said Jesus, "and take it to the master of the feast."

When the master of the feast tasted the water which now had become wine, not knowing where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew) he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and the poorer wine after men have drunk generously, but you have kept the good wine till now." This, the beginning of his miracles, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his

WHO'S THE NEW KID?

The Gospel of John, which was the last to be written, never lists all 12 apostles. Several disciples do not appear by name in John, including the disciple John himself!

Also, John names a disciple who is not listed in the synoptics nor in the Book of Acts: Nathanael. However, since Bartholomew is closely associated with Philip, he is likely the same as Nathanael.

glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this, he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples, and they remained there only a few days.

When the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the temple, he found they were selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and the moneychangers were sitting at their tables. Jesus, having made a whip of cords, drove them all out of the temple, both the sheep and the oxen. He poured out the money-changers' coins and overturned their tables. He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things out of here! Do not make my Father's house a marketplace!" And his disciples remembered that it was written, **Zeal for your house will consume me.**

The Jews demanded of Jesus, "What sign can you show us for your authority to do these things?"

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," answered Jesus.

The Jews then said, "This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you indeed rebuild it in three days?"

But Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem during the Feast of the Passover, many believed in his name when they saw the miracles he was performing. But Jesus did not commit himself to them, because he knew what they were like. He had no need for anyone to tell him what any man was like, for he always knew what was in a man.

Jesus and Nicodemus, John 3:1–21

A man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus by night. "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no man can do these miracles that you are doing unless God is with him."

"I tell you truly," replied Jesus, "unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

"How can a man be born when he is old?" asked Nicodemus. "Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

"I tell you truly," replied Jesus, "unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from, or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus.

"Do you presume to be a teacher of Israel," replied Jesus, "and yet do not understand this? I tell you truly, we are speaking of something we know and testifying of something we have seen; but you do not accept our testimony. If I have told you of earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you of heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who came down from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned but he who does not believe stands condemned, because he has not put his trust in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is why men stand condemned: the light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Everyone who practices evil hates the light and refuses to come to it, lest his deeds should be exposed, but he who seeks to live the truth comes to the light, that it may be shown that his deeds have been done in the fear of God."

Approximate Timeline of Jesus's Public Ministry

BEFORE BAPTISM	BAPTISM	FIRST PASSOVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASSOVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASSOVER	SUMMER	THIRD BOOTHS	WINTER	FINAL PASSOVER
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 5 (THURSDAY MARCH 3)

Our Requests (Whether Direct or Indirect) Are Heard by God

Based on John 2

It's always interesting (and funny) how a woman and a man can sometimes (sometimes?) differ in the way they formulate their requests. Usually, my wife will indirectly ask me to do something. You guys know what I mean, right? They have a way of asking something and at the same time, not ask it. While it is indirect, it requires us guys to "fill-in-the-blanks" of their implicit request.

For example, "If you are going to the garage anytime soon," (By the way, I was *not* going, but I suppose now I am being given a hint that I am going to go), "would you bring the broom? There is cat hair on the living room floor, and I am cooking." (This also implies that not only should I go get the broom, but I should also clean up the cat hair in the living room).

My approach to that request, if I was her, would have been this: "Please go to the garage and get the broom. Go and sweep the cat hair in the living room, and don't forget to put the broom back up where you found it." We, as men, sometimes fail to understand our own wives' request. They are cryptic!

(Okay, to be honest, it isn't them, it's us, men. Right, honey?)

I believe that Jesus had the same kind of a cryptic request from His mother at the beginning of His ministry during a wedding in Cana, in Galilee. Mary said to Jesus, "They had no wine." To me, and most guys, we would respond with, "Well, that's a shame. Guess it's time to pack up and go home!" Not so with Jesus's mother. She was implying, "Jesus, do something! Give them some more wine."

Now, I know Jesus was 100 percent God, but He was also 100 percent man, because He, the Son of Man, replied with, "*Woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come.*" If there had been a remote and a television and if He had not been 100 percent God, He might have gone back to watching the game.

But ... He *was* 100 percent God, so at this point, He performed the miracle and turned the water into wine. Come to think of it, it reminds me that God always hears our requests, and He will answer them on His perfect time schedule. And in this case, it just happened to be right after He was asked.

Note of humorous caution: try to think through before you ask the Son of God and Son of Man what you want, because you just might get it immediately!

I believe that the faith of Mary in Jesus was unquestionable. She asked Him (rather she told Him) with the certainty that He would listen and respond to her request. She then instilled that faith to the servants by telling them "*Do whatever He tells you.*"

The miracle itself tells me that our God is the One and Only True God. In these times, people are inclined to put their trust in their own knowledge and their own "wisdom" and try to explain the existence or non-existence of God.

But God does not conform to science; it is the other way around. God is the Creator of everything; He formed and ordered everything. Therefore, science was created by God and conforms to His will. Jesus turned water to wine, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not consumed by the fire. God stopped the sun when Joshua was in battle. To paraphrase a line from a movie about God, He loves to show off! Okay, maybe put in a more dignified way, God is in control of His creation, and it conforms to His will for His honor and glory.

Padre Nuestro, Help me remember when I am faced with humanly impossible situations that You are so much more than human.

--By Josué "Ricky" Martinez

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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