

We will begin our second lecture on the book of John. /Today's message is from John 2. /The title of the chapter is "Jesus Performs Miracles."

/I will give you the main points of the chapter. /First, Jesus turns water into wine. /Verses 1-11. /Second, Jesus cleanses the temple. /Verses 12-22. /Third, Jesus does not trust in man. /Verses 23-25.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

/There is the region of Cana in Galilee. /Cana is located about 8 kilometers from Nazareth. /A wedding was taking place in Cana. /Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were invited to this wedding. /However, they ended up running out of wine.

/The text says that Jesus turned water into wine. /This does not permit us to drink. /The Bible tells us not to drink alcohol. /Proverbs 23:31 /Ephesians 5:18 /The message is teaching us about Jesus's transformation movement.

/It also teaches us about the change that comes with the movement of life. /Also, the kingdom of God is like a house of feasting. /Song of Solomon 2:4 /If we believe in Jesus, every moment is full of joy, much like a house of feasting. /In the Lord we have enough and we have happiness. /If we serve Jesus, we receive blessings. /Our hearts become like a house of feasting. /Luke 19:5

/Verse 3. /When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

/Wine ran out at the wedding feast. /This means that we run out of the things of the world. /We are short of money. /People always have to study more. /We also lose our health.

/As we live in this world, we end up running out of things. /When they lacked wine, Jesus's mother came to Jesus. /She said that they had run out of wine. /When we face difficulties, we need to report them to Jesus. /We also need to pray to Jesus.

/Verse 4. /And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

/Here, Jesus says to his mother, "Woman." /In Greek, the word for "woman" is "gyunai." /Jesus is not looking down on his mother. /The word means "missus." It also means "lady."

/Jesus said, "What does this have to do with me?" /Jesus is saying that his mother has no business with his work of redemption. /Mary is a sinner like us. /The Catholic Church worships Mary.

/This is not right. /In verse 4, Jesus says, “My hour has not yet come.” /It means that the time has not come for Jesus’s work of redemption. /It also means the time has not yet come to change water into wine.

/Jesus fulfills the work of God at the proper time. /When the time was right, Jesus changed the water into wine.

/Verse 5. /His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

/Jesus’s mother knew that Jesus would handle the situation. /That is why she said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” /Good things happen to us when we obey Jesus’s commands. /We are blessed based on our obedience.

/Verse 6. /Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

/Here, the Jewish rites of purification refer to the practice of washing one’s hands after going out and returning home. /The Jews ate only after they washed their hands.

/Verse 7. /Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.

/Jesus gives orders to the servants. /He says, “Fill the jars with water.” /To fill the jars completely means to obey completely. /2 Kings 4:1 /We must obey the Lord’s commands even if they go against our logic. /We must obey the Lord’s commands even if they are difficult to obey. /We must obey the most difficult tasks.

/Verse 8. /And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it.

/Jesus told the servants to draw out the water and take it to the master of the feast. /When he said this, the servants obeyed without complaining. /In our human minds, we would think it would be better to take water directly from the well and give it to the master.

/The servants could have complained about how Jesus was making it inconvenient for them. /However, the servants did not complain, but they obeyed Jesus completely.

/Verse 9. /When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom

/The water transformed into wine. /The master of the feast tasted the wine, but he did not know where it came from. /The obedient servants who had brought the water were the only ones who knew. /Only those who participated knew the secret. /Revelation 2:17

/The one who obeys is given access to such secrets. /The transformation of water into wine teaches us several holy lessons. /First, there is a change in quality. /As we go from people without faith to people who believe, we become people of value.

/Also, there is a change in taste. /Wine is tastier than water. /We must feel the taste of our wisdom. /We must enjoy believing in Jesus. /Next, there is a change in color. /The color changed into something beautiful.

/The light of our faces, the faces of believers, also becomes beautiful. /Daniel 1:15 /Acts 6:15 /Next, there is a change in purpose. /Before the transformation, water is used to wash hands. /Now, it has become a drink to be consumed by people. /In this way, its purpose changed.

/Before we believed, we were used in the world to commit sins. /However, we have become good people who are now used before God. /We are used for the church and the gospel. /We have become glorious tools for God.

/Throughout history, believers have experienced change. /The Bible shows us how Paul changed. /Mary Magdalene also changed. /Zacchaeus also changed. /Rahab the prostitute changed. /The Samaritan woman, who appears in John 4, changed. /Augustine of the church of Christianity changed.

/We see these beautiful changes for the better. /On the other hand, when people change for the worse, we say that they go bad, or spoil. /Like milk that spoils, people change for the worse. /This brings pain to other people.

/We believers of Jesus must change in beautiful ways. /Our character must change. /Our faces must change, /and our surroundings must also change. /Our families must change, /and the places in which we dwell must change.

/Verse 10. /and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

/Normally, people serve the good wine first, and then when people have drunk enough, they serve the poor wine. /However, during this event, people were served the good wine later in the day. /The things of the world start off being good, but they slowly become bad.

/The world becomes weaker. /It grows older. /The love between a married couple starts strong, but it slowly cools down. /Friends may be close at first, but as time goes by, they drift apart. /In these ways, the things of the world grow older and weaker.

/However, the work of salvation, the movement of salvation, gets better as time progresses. /It becomes new every day. /The kingdom of the Lord changes into something more beautiful with each new day.

/Verse 11. /This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

/These were the first of Jesus's signs. /The Lord manifested the glory of God.

/Verse 12. /After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

/Jesus's home was in Capernaum. /Matthew 4:13 /He did not stay there for a long time, but he went to a different place. /He went to preach the gospel at another place.

/Jesus's mother and his brothers are with Jesus. /Jesus had four younger siblings. /They were his blood-related siblings. /Matthew 13:55 /Mark 6:3

/Verse 13. /The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

/During the Passover, the Jews came from all places and gathered in Jerusalem. /Jesus went up to Jerusalem to preach the good news.

/Verse 14. /In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

/Jesus went into the temple and saw people selling oxen, sheep, and pigeons. /Money-changers were also sitting there. /This is the first story of how Jesus cleansed the temple.

/Jesus cleansed the temple two times. /In today's message, we see the first cleansing of the temple. /Jesus also cleansed the temple a second time. /Matthew 21:12 /Mark 11:15 / Luke 19:45

/Why did Jesus rebuke those who were selling oxen, sheep, and pigeons, and the money-changers in the temple? /He did this because the priests and Pharisees had become greedy. /They had fallen into clericalism.

/They were leaning towards ritualism. /The priests forbade the people from bringing their own oxen, sheep, and pigeons. /They said that the animals the people raised at home were unclean.

/The animals that the priests themselves had raised were supposedly clean. /For this reason, the priests sold their oxen, sheep, and pigeons to the people at high prices. /The temples used a form of currency called "shekels."

/Money of the world was not to be used in the temple. /The world's money was exchanged for shekels to be used in the temple. /When they exchanged the money for the people, they charged the people high fees. /In this way, the Jewish religion was corrupt. /In this way, the priests had become greedy. /Micah 3:10 /Matthew 23:16

/Verses 15-16. /And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

/Because Jesus is the Judge, he made a whip of cords and drove them out of the temple. / He said, "Do not make my Father's house a house of trade." /God's house is a house of prayer. /Isaiah 56:7 /Matthew 21:13

/Christianity is a religion of praying to God. /We must not trade in today's church. /Believers must worship in spirit and in truth in the church. /John 4:23

/The Lord's church must do the works of giving life to spirits and building the truth. /Within the church, there needs to be the work of life. /Believers must be born again and see their souls grow in the church.

/Verse 17. /His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

/When the disciples saw this, they remembered what was written. /Psalm 69:9 /Jesus had zeal for his house. /He worked hard to yearn for God. /Jesus had zeal for the holy house as he communicated with and shared a relationship with God.

/The verse says, "Will consume me." /This means that Jesus will be persecuted and sacrificed. /Jesus died on the cross for this reason. /He could not stand watching the temple be made unclean.

/This is the reason he cleansed the temple. /Though Jesus was persecuted and sacrificed because he did these things, he was glad. /John 16:2

/Verses 18-19. /So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

/The Jews said to Jesus, / "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" /Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." /The Jews neither sought after the truth nor the Christ.

/They wanted a sign to see with their eyes of the flesh. /Jesus told them that the only sign he had to show was the sign of Jonah. /Matthew 16:1-4 /Jesus is saying he will rise from the grave in three days.

/The verse says, "Destroy this temple." /This refers to the body of Jesus, who is the temple, that is to be destroyed. /It means Jesus will die on the cross. /It also means he will rise from the dead in three days time.

/Jesus continues to say, “And in three days I will raise it up.” /He means he will resurrect from the dead in three days. /Jesus’s resurrection is the greatest of all miracles. /We must not chase after physical signs.

/We must follow Jesus who shows us these signs. /Jesus’s cross and his resurrection are the great miracle.

/Verse 20. /The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?”

/The temple at the time took forty-six years to build. /An additional thirty-six years were spent to complete the construction. /However, in 70 A.D., the Roman army destroyed the temple. /The Jews boasted in their physical temple.

/But Jesus says that his body is the temple. /He said that he would raise it up in three days. /This refers to Jesus’s resurrection. /The Jews, however, did not understand the holy meaning of this.

/Verse 21. /But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

/Jesus was speaking about his body, which is the temple. /The Jews only saw the physical temple. /However, Jesus teaches them the godly truth. /Jesus’s disciples came to understand this truth after Jesus died and rose again.

/Verse 23. /Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.

/Many saw the signs that Jesus did, and they believed in Christ. /Even still, Jesus did not put his trust in man. /The reason is Jesus knew the heart of every man.

/What kind of heart do people have? /Mark 7:21 /Galatians 5:19 /People are naturally self-centered. /People are greedy. /Therefore Jesus did not place his trust in people. /Instead of trusting in them, he loved them.

/We however must trust in God. /We also must not trust in people, but we need to love them. /Furthermore, Jesus did not need man to bear witness about him. /Our Jesus is satisfied with God bearing witness about him.

/The Bible also bears witness about Jesus. /May we, like Jesus, not put our trust in man. / We need to trust in the Almighty God, the source of many blessings.

/We will continue with John 3. /The title of the chapter is “Nicodemus.” /I will give you the main points of the chapter. /First, the truth about being born again. /Verses 1-12. /Second, the lesson on eternal life. /Verses 13-21. /Third, John the Baptist’s faith and humility. /Verses 22-30. /Fourth, the one who came from above. /Verses 31-36.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

/Nicodemus is a Pharisee. /He was a ruler of the Jews. /The rulers of the Jews are members of a 70-person council. /This council is also called the Sanhedrin.

/Israel's religious leaders gather in the Sanhedrin, which is the highest court. /Nicodemus was a member of this council. /He was a teacher of the law.

/Verse 2. /This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

/Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. /Why couldn't he go to Jesus during the day? /The reason is he, as a teacher of the law, as someone with authority, and as a scholar, would lose face.

/Also, in Judaism, anyone who acknowledged Jesus Christ was excommunicated. /9:22 /Nicodemus came to Jesus to learn from him. / "Rabbi" in the verse means "teacher." /Nicodemus called Jesus "teacher."

/He also acknowledged the fact that Jesus came from God. /Nicodemus was waiting for the kingdom of God to come. /He wanted to learn the truth. /Furthermore, he wanted to know Jesus and believe in him.

/Verse 3. /Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

/Jesus responded by saying, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." /Jesus himself taught Nicodemus the truth of being born again.

/Through our message today, I will tell you the truth about being born again. /Here is the definition for "born again." /It means "to come to life again," or "to be renewed." /A person's dead spirit is coming to life again.

/Before we believe in Jesus, our spirits are all dead. /Ephesians 2:1 /It means that life has been cut off between man and God. /However, when someone believes Jesus as his Savior, his spirit comes alive. /Ephesians 2:1 /John 6:63

/We say someone is born again when their spirit comes back to life. /It is the start of a new life. /Spiritually, this person is brought back to life. /Now, the spirit has life and can see God. /The person can see the kingdom of God.

/Verse 4. /Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

/Nicodemus did not understand the truth of being born again. /He tried to understand the truth of it in the physical sense. /If we think of it in the physical sense, we cannot know the works of the Holy Spirit. /People may devote much of their time to their studies and be well-learned, but this does not mean they know the truth. /1 Corinthians 2:14

/Verse 5. /Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

/Jesus said that one must be born of water and the Spirit. /The elements required for someone to be born again are water and the Spirit. /Then what is “water”? /This is important. / “Water” symbolizes the word of God.

/According to the Bible, we are born again through the word and the Holy Spirit. /Ephesians 5:26 /1 Peter 1:23 /James 1:18 /Luke 8:11 /If we look at these verses, we can see that we are born again through the word.

/We are born again when we believe. /Logically, however, faith comes after rebirth. /Rebirth, faith, repentance. /This is the logical order. /However, all these things happen simultaneously.

/Verse 6. /That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

/What is born of the flesh is flesh. /What is born of the Spirit is spirit. /It is important that our spirit comes to life. /When our spirits come to life, they become living souls. /6:63 /Romans 8:10 /Through Christ, the believer’s soul has become a living soul. /1 Corinthians 15:45 /1 John 3:9

/Our souls come to life because we believe in Jesus. /Because our souls are alive, we will not die again. /Our bodies may age, and our bodies may die, but it does not matter. /Our spirits, from the moment they believe in Jesus, live forever.

/Our bodies return to dust when we die. /Because our spirits come alive when we are born again, our spirits do not die, but they go to heaven. /A born again spirit does not die. /A born again spirit does not sin. /1 John 3:9 /1 John 5:18

/Then why do we commit sins? /This is because of the past person that remains in us. /Because of our sinful nature, /we sin.

/Verse 7. /Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

/We cannot understand the truth about being born again with our thoughts of the flesh. /However, someone who is born again knows the truth.

/Verse 8. /The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

/The wind blows outside. /We cannot see the wind with our eyes. /However, by watching the way the wind works, by watching the leaves shake in the wind, we know that it exists. /So it is with someone born of the Spirit.

/Rebirth is made possible only by the work of the Holy Spirit. /We human beings do not contribute to this work. /The Holy Spirit alone brings life to our spirits through the word. /Like a wind that blows, the Holy Spirit, with his absolute sovereignty, makes us born again.

/Being born again does not require human cooperation. /However, we can see the results of being born again. /We cannot see the wind with our eyes. /But through the movement of the leaves, we can see if the wind is blowing north or south.

/We do not know when we are born again. /However, if we believe in Jesus, we are born again. /We can be sure that we are born again when we look at the results. /So what is proof that we are born again?

/The proof is that we believe that Jesus is Christ. /1 John 5:1 /We come to believe in Jesus. /We cry out “Father!” when we talk to God the Father. /Anyone who does this has seen his spirit come to life.

/A born again spirit does not die. /1 Peter 1:23 /This spirit has been reborn through the word and the Spirit, which are eternal.

/Verse 9. /Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

/Because Nicodemus was not reborn, he did not understand the truth about being born again.

/Verse 11. /Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony.

/Jesus sees the spiritual world, and he dwells in it. /1 Corinthians 2:14,15 /However, Jesus says that the Jews do not receive their testimony. /Jesus speaks of what he knows, and he bears witness to what he sees.

/Verse 12. /If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

/ “Earthly things” refers to the truth about being born again. /Only those in the flesh can be born again. /Because it is something experienced and understood by human beings, Jesus calls it “earthly things.”

/Then what are “heavenly things”? /They are holy things. /Verse 13 is about heavenly things. /It says that Jesus came down from heaven. /This is a heavenly thing.

/This concludes the 2nd lecture on the book of John. /Thank you.