

Sent: 10/29/2014 11:57:33 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Last Nite's MOB Session

Men--Last nite we got into Lesson #7, about Jesus's first miracle--turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-12). This culminated the "first week" of Jesus's ministry, and--according to John--Jesus "manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him"!

All seven miracles which John records occurred in the first part of his gospel, and were intended to present Jesus to as the long-awaited Messiah, the "Son of God." But John observes sadly, in John 12:37, that they "still would not believe!" Kostenberger puts it this way: "While Jesus's disciples see in Jesus's signs a reflection of the glory of God, the very same signs reveal the hardening of the Jewish leadership in its rejection of Israel's Messiah." And so, we see a transition in John's writing, beginning with John 13, as Jesus--"knowing that His hour has come"--turns from "presenting" Himself to the people to preparing His disciples for what's to come!

The imagery and symbolism of Jesus filling the "water pots set there for the Jewish custom of purification" (v. 6) and then turning the water into wine, is so awesome--certainly in retrospect! Jesus later--at the Last Supper--would hold up the cup of wine and, after "giving thanks," proclaim: "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sin... Drink this in remembrance of Me"! And so we do!

Well, on to Lesson #8, where we'll see Jesus "cleansing" the temple! What's so significant about this act of "righteous indignation"? How does it reinforce John's theme that Jesus was the promised Messiah and Son of God? And what does it say about true worship?

Special thanks to Marty for leading our small group session!

Have a great week, men!

Lowell