



## Portrait of Christ

*Sketches in the Gospel of John*

Inductive Discovery Lesson 3  
**John 2:1-25**

### Jesus: Man of Authority

Authority is the power or right to give commands, enforce obedience, or take action. Any man may be *given* authority—but Jesus was the voice of authority itself. John sketches this aspect of Jesus with two events: a miracle in Cana and a confrontation in Jerusalem. Turning water to wine is the first of many miracles. Turning merchandisers out of the temple is the first of many conflicts. The Jews questioned His authority even as they witnessed His power.

It is Passover and the temple is filled with the noise of clanging coins and the stench of cattle. When Jesus comes into the temple, He cleans. He upsets tables and traffickers alike. “What right do you have?” they ask. His veiled answer puzzles them. They can’t understand that Jesus is telling them He has power over much more than waterpots and tables—He has dominion over life and death.

**Working Text for John 2:1-25**  
English Standard Version (ESV)

**1** On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. **3** When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." **4** And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." **5** His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." **6** Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. **8** And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. **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 **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." **11** This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**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.

**13** The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. **15** 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. **16** And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." **17** His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." **18** So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" **19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up

in three days?” **21** But he was speaking about the temple of his body. **22** When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**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. **24** But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people **25** and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.





**John 2:23-25** (continued)

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

**Key Words and Phrases**

Write the definition of the following words and phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“manifested His **glory**” (vs.11) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“**signs, sign**” (vs. 11,18,23) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?***

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

**APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?***

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

**John 2:1-12**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**John 2:13-22**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**John 2:23-25**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

**Summary**

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Give a simple title to the chapter to help you remember what it says. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Take A Closer Look

...He knew what was in man.  
John 2:25b

### ***Memorize God's Word***

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

---

---

### ***Meditate on God's Word***

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

(Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse.)

**Look up.** What does this verse show you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, or His promises.)

---

---

---

**Look around.** What does this teach you about life or people in general?

---

---

---

**Look within.** What does this teach you about yourself?

---

---

---

**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

---

---

---

**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

---

---

### ***Make God's Word Your Prayer***

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

---

---

---

---

---



### **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter?  
How will you put what you have learned into practice?

---

---

---

---

### **Something to Think About . . .**

God never judges men by their brains; He judges them by their hearts.

Oswald Chambers

**Message Notes:**

A large rectangular area with a light gray background and horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The area is framed by a thick, irregular, dark gray border that looks like a torn piece of paper.



