

Life Group Notes 10/16/2022
Mark Warren John's Gospel Week 2

I have taken to including pertinent or interesting notes at the end of the outline. These are for your benefit, for the delight of those who love Trivial Pursuit, and for anyone who wonders what the life and culture of the day speaks to the passages we study. They are not meant to be part of a Life Group study, unless they raise questions. This risks extending the notes beyond the usual number of pages. These pages never need to be printed. If you have observations or questions feel free send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net.—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**)

The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the bar. Please be obedient and enjoy!

CROWD BREAKER Choose one, or use these notes as a springboard. It has been recommended that we spend as much time as possible in the Word this week.

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to proclaim fearlessly the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions Pastor Mark has raised this week, 10/16, John 2. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

Mark opens the morning commenting on the atmosphere during worship. **Briefly, what did you notice?**

The Wedding at Cana

1On the third day (Scribe's note: See notes on third day below.) a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, **2**and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3**When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They have no more wine."

4"Woman, why does this concern us?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." (Note: "Woman," in Greek was formal address, and could also be translated, "My Lady.") What does "My hour has not yet come," even mean? If His hour has not come, and His mother insists anyway, has His hour come?

5His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." What is His mother doing? What does she know that no one else knows?

6Now six stone water jars had been set there for the Jewish rites of purification. Each could hold from twenty to thirty gallons. (See notes and photo below.) **7**Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water."

So they filled them to the brim. Do the math. What is the least number of gallons of wine that came from the water, if each stone jar only held twenty gallons? What if they all held thirty gallons? How long does it take to fill a thirty-gallon tank at a gas pump? How long did it take to prepare for this miracle?

How many gallons of water does an average bathtub hold (80 gallons)? How many gallons of water does an average hot tub hold (150 to 200 gallons)? How far will that much wine go at a feast? How obedient was Jesus to His mother? How did He honor the bride and the groom, and the steward of the feast? How were the hearts of the guests blessed?

8"Now draw some out," He said, "and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, **9**and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not know where it was from, but the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside **10**and said, "Everyone serves the fine wine first, and then the cheap wine after the guests are drunk. But you have saved the fine wine until now!" (Scribes note: Some modern denominations hold strongly that this was not wine, but grape juice. How can you know this is not the best interpretation of the event? How are the best wines distinguished from the best fresh grape juices?)

11Jesus performed this, the first of His signs, at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. (Notice how John identifies this as the first of His signs. How do we know from what was said that this is true? What do we now know of "Jesus' time?" How long have the disciples been traveling with Jesus? Days, months or years? What results from seeing this miracle in each of His disciples? How extreme was this miracle? Pastor Mark finds a deeper significance, like a parable, in this miracle of

changing mere water in an earthen vessel to most excellent wine. This was indeed Jesus' first miracle. (This implies that Jesus went thirty years without a single miracle. **Why did He wait?**) Pastor Mark connects the water in the vessels with the water baptism at the Jordan, with John the Baptizer. He connects the wine with the wine of the Spirit. (See **Ephesians 5: 17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. **18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.** **19** Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. **How does "being filled with the Spirit" relate to "being drunk with wine"? Where is infilling with the Holy Spirit first mistaken for drunkenness? (See Acts 2: "These men are drunk with new wine." See notes on "not drunk" below.)** Mark goes on to describe us as the "earthen vessels". The water that first comes in, then, represents repentance, John's baptism. He says, "That's OK. That's the beginning of our journey." He says, "His work in us begins when we realize that we have a sin problem. There is something lacking. When we acknowledge that, we get the water to fill our vessels. We acknowledge our sin and get baptized, acknowledging that Jesus took care of our sin problem at the cross." After the waters of repentance, comes the wine of the Holy Spirit. **Explain.**

Look up 2 Cor 4: 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," (**Where did He say that?**) made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **Does "the Word become flesh" in us? Is Paul extending what John described in Chapter One? 7** Now we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us. **What "great power" is Paul talking about? Look closely. How does the light come to our hearts? 8** We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. **10** We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body **What do you see? Mark asks, "How is the fruit of the Spirit doing in your life?" Answer him. Mark says, "It's not by your flesh that you work on His fruit, but by His Spirit working in you." Explain. Does the life in you become the life of the party.**

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

([Matthew 21:12-17](#); [Mark 11:15-19](#); [Luke 19:45-48](#))

12 After this, He went down to Capernaum with His mother and brothers and His disciples, and they stayed there a few days. (**Cana and Nazareth are the same distance from Capernaum on the same road. See notes on Capernaum below.**)

13 When the Jewish Passover was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** In the temple courts He found men selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers seated at their tables. (**See notes on "money changers" below:** In John's narrative, this happens at the beginning of His ministry, while it occurs during Holy Week in the synoptic gospels. **Could it**

have happened twice? Why does John recount it here?) ¹⁵So He made a whip out of cords and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle. (Note: He did not buy a whip. He deliberately made it. **Why is "Gentle Jesus meek and mild" not always the best description. What do you see here?)** He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those selling doves He said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn My Father's house into a marketplace!" **What language does Jesus use here that will cause controversy soon? Why?**

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for Your house will consume Me." (See **Psalm 69:9**, this is a song that the disciples have sung.)

¹⁸On account of this, the Jews demanded, "What sign can You show us to prove Your authority to do these things?" **What would have happened if this were today? Why did they not arrest Him?**

¹⁹Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again." **Is this a sign? Do they destroy "this temple" and get that sign?**

²⁰"This temple took forty-six years to build," the Jews replied, "and You are going to raise it up in three days?"

²¹But Jesus was speaking about the temple of His body. ²²After He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. Pastor Mark says, "Jesus was speaking in code." **So, do they eventually destroy "this temple" and get that sign?** Pastor Mark says, "Remember, Paul teaches that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus goes in to cleanse THE temple, He's addressing something so strong in us. **What is he talking about? What are our "moneychangers"?** How is Jesus' act prophetic? Mark quotes Paul and says, "The love of money is the root of all evil." (See 1 Timothy 6:9-10) How is that seen in the temple? Do you have a testimony where you had to check your own pursuits? Look up 1 John 2: ¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, along with its desires; but whoever does the will of God remains forever.... **Does this fit? How is money connected to "all that is in the world?" Do John and Paul agree?** Pastor Mark says, "Tithing is the very thing that sets our hearts free." **How? Do you have a testimony? How does a deliberate regimen of giving respond to the temptations John describes here?** Mark says, "He is the creator of the universe and everything in it. He does not need your money." **What does He get when we tithe? What do we get?** Mark says, "He needs our heart." **How does tithing bring that? How does tithing become a trust issue? Look up 1 Samuel 15: ²²But Samuel declared: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to His voice? Behold, obedience is better than sacrifice, and attentiveness is better than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is like the**

sin of divination, and arrogance is like the wickedness of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king.”... **What does obedience look like? What does “His voice” sound like? What does “obedience to His voice” serve to prove? What is the fruit?**

23 While He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the signs He was doing and believed in His name. **Why is this observation so enlightening? Did Jesus “do signs” when the “Jews” demanded it? What signs did He do, and when? It has been said, “Jesus never healed the healthy. He only healed the sick.” What motivated Jesus to heal? Did He ever seek to “prove” Who He was by mighty works, signs and wonders? Why does Jesus’ compassion draw more followers than his response to the ever-critical “Jews”?** **24** But Jesus did not entrust Himself to them, for He knew them all. **25** He did not need any testimony about man, for He knew what was in a man. **Why is this observation so important to understand? What does it mean, “He did not need any testimony about man”? Did He need to be warned of how fickle was human nature? Look at the passage from 1 Samuel above and describe the fickleness of Saul’s nature.**

Mark concludes with 1 Cor 3:16. Explain: **16** **Do you not know that you yourselves are God’s temple, and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?** **17** If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple. **18** Let no one deceive himself. If any of you thinks he is wise in this age, he should become a fool, so that he may become wise. **19** For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness.” **20** And again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” **21** Therefore, stop boasting in men. All things are yours. **How do these words fit with the last verse we just read? What does “All things are yours” mean when it comes to obedience?**

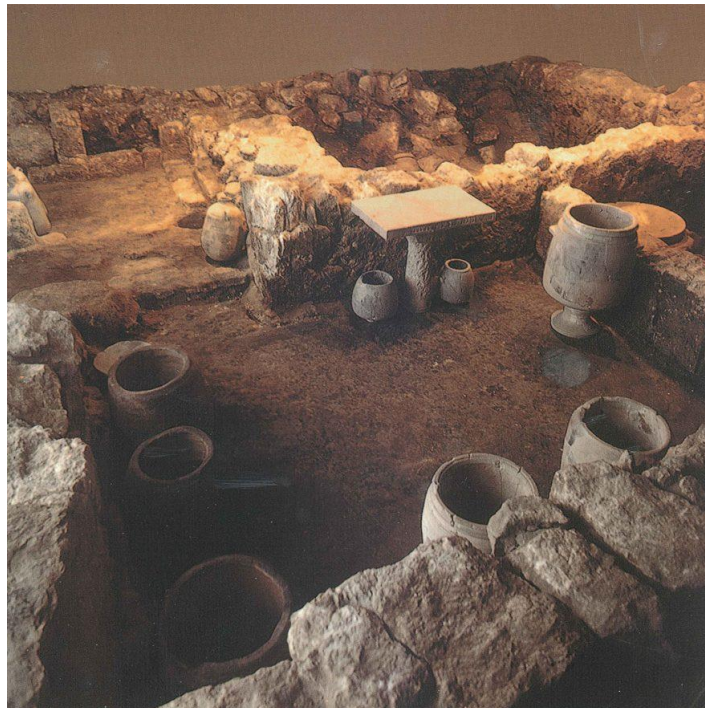
Take the time to pray.

Scribe’s notes:

On the “third day”: Commentaries suggest that John’s mention of “the third day” starts the count from the day Philip invites Nathanael in chapter 1:43. Look again at chapter 1 and notice how John delineates the days quite consistently. **How quickly did Jesus go from unknown to known? Words first or miraculous deeds first, what brought Jesus His fame? Look at what Paul said to the Corinthians 1 Cor 2:** **1** When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. **2** For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. **4** My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, **5** so that your faith would not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power. **Why do works come before words? Which is more credible? A talker or a doer?**

On the geography of Galilee: Bethsaida, now ruins, is known to be on the western coast of the Sea of Galilee. **Nazareth**, still alive and inhabited in Galilee today, lies twenty miles inland to the west, and **“Cana of Galilee”** is a village identified just five miles north of Nazareth, and easily reached by Jesus and family. **Capernaum**, in Arabic called *Kefir Naum* or the Village of Nahum, is said to be the where the prophet Nahum was raised. It is a beautiful lakeside town found centered on the north coast, and integral to the trade route from Israel to Damascus, not far from where the fresh waters from the springs of Mt. Hermon enter it. We know this is the village where Peter (though he comes from Bethsaida), James and John fished, and where Peter’s mother-in-law got sick, whom Jesus healed. Notice too: These cities on the sea’s coast are where the majority of Jesus miracles occurred, and, with Chorazin, they are cursed to the ruins that we find today. Look at Luke 10:13-15. *13 Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades! Why? Why do these villages lie in ruins, and yet, Nazareth, where Jesus “could do few miracles...because of their unbelief” is still inhabited today? Explain why witnessing miracles brings both faith and responsibility?*

On the stone jars:



Jerusalem was a center for the “stone jar” industry because ritual cleansing was deeply ingrained in the culture of Jewish practice in the days of the Second Temple...Jesus’ days. Many have been found, corroborating John’s testimony.

On Money Changers and whips: Certain sacrifices are required at the temple, and the quality of the sacrifice, whether sheep or goat or even turtledove, was assessed by Levites who were assigned to that task. If a blemish was found, and it often was, the offering was rejected and those bringing the offering were forced to buy temple sheep/goats/turtle doves that were sold for a profit, and all purchases had to be made with the coin of the temple which was exchanged for a profit from the Roman currency used in the empire.

On Pentecost, and being “not drunk.” **Look at Acts 2:** “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen carefully to my words. ¹⁵ [These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day!](#) ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

The Greek from which this verse is taken offers a glimpse into what happens when the Holy Spirit first came on the church. Where you will find the verse universally translated as denying the drunkenness of the 120 who first received the baptism of the Spirit, which John the Baptist and Luke call the “baptism of Jesus,” the Greek is literally rendered like this: “For **not as you IMAGINE** these men **ARE** drunk.” The negative particle “not” applies to the imagination of the observers and not to the drunkenness of the apostles. Peter could very well be saying, “These men are drunk, but it is not the way you think. It’s only 9 AM.” Note that this incident parallels the first time the Holy Spirit came into the Temple when Solomon’s temple was completed. Look at 1Kings 8: ¹⁰And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, the cloud filled the house of the LORD ¹¹[so that the priests could not stand there to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.](#) It is clear that biblically, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit have a physical impact those who receive it. **Why does Paul say being filled with the Holy Spirit is better than wine?**