

Dr. David L. Turner, The Gospel of John, Session 4, John 1:19-2:12, Podcast Audio Overview

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All right, welcome back, everyone, for another deep dive. Yeah. This time we're going to be looking at John 1.19 through 2.12, which is really a fascinating section.

It is. It's basically the opening act of Jesus' public ministry. It is.

And we've got a great lecture by Dr. David Turner, a biblical scholar, to kind of guide us along. Right. So you might think you know the story of Jesus turning water into wine, but there's a lot more to it than meets the eye.

Oh, yeah. So get ready to uncover some hidden depths. I love that John starts his gospel with John the Baptist's testimony.

Oh, really? Yeah. Dr. Turner was saying how it's the very first thing that happens right after that really poetic prologue. Right.

And that's no accident. It's like the spotlight is shining directly on John. I see what you mean.

It's like John is the opening act. He is. Setting the stage for the main event.

Yeah. And he doesn't like to ease into it either. No, he doesn't.

It's like, boom, right away, a confrontation. Yes. So picture this.

John's out in the wilderness. Okay. And these Jewish leaders, these bigwigs, show up from Jerusalem demanding to know who he thinks he is.

They're suspicious. Yeah. I bet they were totally worried that he was going to start some kind of rebellion.

Oh, yeah, for sure. And so they grill him. Are you the Messiah? Are you Elijah? Are you a prophet? And what does John say? John says no, no, and no.

He just shuts them down. Simple as that. Wow.

Wow. But he doesn't leave them hanging, though, does he? No, he doesn't. He drops this line from Isaiah.

Right. I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness. Yes.

Make straight the way for the Lord. It's like he's saying, get ready, folks, something big is coming. I love that.

It's like foreshadowing. Total foreshadowing. Buckle up.

You're not ready for this. Exactly. And John knows he's not the main attraction.

Right. He tells them flat out among you stands one you do not know. He's the one who comes after me.

I'm not even worthy to untie his sandals. Wow. Can you imagine saying that about someone? I know, right? Talk about some serious humility.

Humility. It's almost like he's intentionally lowering himself so that Jesus can be lifted up. Right.

Which is interesting because that's something that we see throughout John's gospel. Oh yeah, for sure. This idea of like lifting up Jesus, glorifying Jesus.

I know, right. And then he just hits them with it. He does.

That mic drop moment. The heart of John's testimony. What is it? Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Oh, I always get chills when I hear that. I know, me too. That image of the Lamb of God.

It's so powerful. Oh, it is. Especially with all the Old Testament connections.

Right, like the Passover lamb. Exactly. Sacrifice, atonement, all that stuff.

Right. Yeah, I always thought of it mostly about forgiveness. Right.

Dr. Turner added another layer. He said Jesus doesn't just forgive sin, but actually removes it from the world entirely. Like wiping the slate clean.

That's a powerful image. It is. Yeah.

It totally adds a whole new dimension to understanding what Jesus came to do. For sure. It's not just about getting a pardon.

It's about actually transforming reality. Right. Dealing with the root of the problem.

Absolutely. So it's really interesting. Okay, and then there's one more piece of John's testimony that is just so crucial.

He says, he saw the Spirit descend on Jesus like a dove. Yes. And remain on him.

That's huge. It is. It's like the Spirit is giving Jesus the stamp of approval.

Yeah. You know, marking him out as the chosen one. Right.

And so we've got John setting the stage. He's done his job. He's done his job.

Yeah. Now, cue the entrance of the first disciple. Okay, here we go.

Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael. Right. And they come to Jesus, but it's not like they're totally gung-ho.

Yeah. You know? Not at all. There's this interesting hesitation.

Yeah. Almost like they're not totally sure what they're getting into. Yeah.

Like testing the waters. Yeah. Like dipping their toes in.

Yeah. Exactly. It's like when Jesus sees Andrew and Peter following him and asks, what are you looking for? Such a good question.

Yeah. And what do they say? They don't even really answer the question. Right.

They just say, "Where are you staying? It's like they're just drawn to him, but still figuring things out. And Jesus doesn't lay down the law or anything like that. He just says, come and see.

I love that. I love that, too. It's just this- it's an invitation to experience him firsthand, not just take somebody else's word for it.

Yeah. Exactly. Exactly.

And then there's Nathanael, who's like- yeah. The skeptic. The ultimate skeptic.

Yeah. Who's like, "Can anything good come from Nazareth? I love that one. Oh, it's so good.

It's so good. He threw shade at Nazareth. But Philip, being a good disciple- good disciple.

But he just echoes Jesus, and he's like- Come and see. Come and see. That's right.

So simple, yet so profound. Absolutely. And wouldn't you know it, Nathanael actually shows up.

He does. And he is instantly blown away. He's like, wait a minute.

Yeah. When Jesus tells him- I saw you under the fig tree- right. Before Philip called you.

It's like Jesus has this supernatural insight into his life. Right. Which totally changes Nathanael's mind.

Yeah. Yeah. He goes from skeptic to believer just like that.

Total aha moment. Aha moment. Exactly.

And so we've got John the Baptist paving the way. Yeah. And these first disciples taking these tentative steps- yes.

Towards Jesus. Right. It feels like we're on the edge of something big, doesn't it? Oh, yeah.

Like we're building up to something huge. Huge. Absolutely.

And speaking of huge- okay. That's where we find ourselves at a wedding feast in Cana. Yes.

And this isn't just any party. No. This is a major social event.

Yeah. And suddenly disaster strikes. Oh.

They run out of wine. No. Can you imagine? I mean, Dr. Turner was emphasizing how important wine was in that culture.

Oh, I know. Right? It wasn't just about having a good time. Yeah.

It was a symbol of God's blessing. Right. And abundance.

Running out would have been totally embarrassing. Oh, yeah. Like a major social faux pas.

Right. Almost like a sign of God's displeasure. Mm.

Yeah. You can feel the tension, right? Oh, I can only imagine the pressure the host family must've felt. Totally.

So that's when Jesus steps in. Right. The hero of the hour.

He is, but here's the thing. Okay. He doesn't make a big show of it.

Really? It's almost like he performs this miracle on the sly. Huh. That's interesting.

So what does he do? Well, he tells the servants to fill these six huge stone jars with water. Okay. And boom, it's the best wine anyone's ever tasted.

Okay. Hold on. So we're talking about a lot of wine here, right? Oh, yeah.

These jars were huge. So it's not just like a little parlor trick. Yeah.

This is a major- this is a statement. Yeah. A major statement.

Yeah. I love how Jesus is so low-key about it. I know, right? Like Dr. Turner suggested, it was a deliberate move to avoid the spotlight.

Mm. Before his hour had come. Yes.

That's so interesting. Right. Because John's gospel makes a big deal about Jesus' hour.

Yeah. It refers to his eventual death and resurrection. Right.

Like the climax of his mission. Exactly. So it's like he's already hinting at that.

He is. Right from the beginning. Yeah.

The whole thing is part of a bigger plan. So what do we make of this water-into-wine business? Well, we have to think about the symbolism. Okay.

Water, especially in those big purification jars, represents ritual purity. Okay. But wine, as we talked about, is the symbol of God's abundant blessing.

Mm-hmm. A taste of the good life God wants for his people. Right.

It's like the party's just getting started. Yeah. So the miracle isn't just some parlor trick.

It's- It's a statement. Yeah. It's like Jesus is saying the old ways of ritual cleansing, they're good.

Right. But I'm bringing something even better. Yes.

Get ready for a whole new level of blessing. Exactly. A whole new relationship with God.

It's like a sneak peek into the kingdom of God. Ooh, yeah. For sure.

Breaking into the here and now. Yeah. And transforming everything.

That's right. It's incredible. It is.

And it's just the beginning. Wow. I'm already hooked.

I can't wait to see what happens next. Me too. You know, it's funny how even in a miracle story, you get a little bit of family drama.

Right. Remember when Jesus' mom tells him they've run out of wine? Oh, yeah. His response is so cryptic.

It is. What does he say again? Woman, why do you involve me? My hour has not yet come. It almost sounds a little dismissive.

Yeah. Kind of like, Mom, not now. I'm busy doing miracles.

Right. Exactly. But Dr. Turner explained that that phrase, the hour, in John's gospel, that's a big deal.

It is. It refers to Jesus' eventual death and resurrection. Oh, right.

Like the climax of his mission. Exactly. So it's not that he's brushing his mom off.

Okay. It's more like he's pointing to this much larger purpose. I see.

This divine timetable that he's operating on. So it's like those superhero movies, right? Oh, yeah. Where it's all building up to this final showdown.

Right. And this is just one piece of the puzzle. Exactly.

It makes you wonder what else he was doing during his ministry to kind of prepare for that hour. Yeah. That's a great question.

And speaking of things to ponder. Okay. Dr. Turner brought this really cool idea about a new creation theme.

Yeah. Running through these opening chapters of John. Oh, yeah? Remember how the prologue describes Jesus as the Word, the light, the life-bringer? Right.

It's like those verses are painting this picture of Jesus as the ultimate creator. Yeah. The one who brings order and beauty out of chaos.

Exactly. And now, with this miracle at Cana, that new creation theme comes to life in this really tangible way. It does.

This transformation of water into wine. Right. A symbol of God's abundant blessing.

Yeah. It's almost like an echo of the creation story itself. Oh, I see what you mean.

It's like Jesus is ushering in this new era. Yeah. A new way of experiencing God's goodness.

Right. It's not just about following rules and rituals anymore. Right.

It's about this overflowing abundance. Yeah. This joy that comes from knowing him.

Which is actually something that we see throughout John's gospel. Oh, absolutely. This emphasis on joy.

Yeah. And abundant life. Right.

And that's reinforced by all the different titles that people use for Jesus in these chapters, right? Oh, you've got it. We hear them called Messiah, Lamb of God, Son of God, Rabbi, King of Israel. Even Son of Man? Son of Man, yeah.

It's like every title is like a piece of the puzzle revealing a different aspect of who Jesus is and what he came to do. It's almost overwhelming, right? It is. It's like, how much information can you pack into just these few verses? I know.

And it's not just the titles. It's the places, too. The places.

That's right. Bethany across the Jordan, Galilee, Bethsaida, Capernaum, Cana. So many places.

What's the deal with all these locations? Well, Dr. Turner pointed out that each place adds another layer of meaning. For example, Bethany across the Jordan. Yeah.

That's where John was baptizing. Right. So it represents repentance and preparation.

And Cana, of course, that's where Jesus performs his first miracle. Right. Marking the beginning of his public ministry.

So it's like, we're not just reading a story. No. We're tracing a journey.

Yeah. Both geographically and spiritually. That's right.

And this journey is about so much more than just physical travel. Absolutely. It's about encountering Jesus and being transformed by him.

It's like those first disciples. Yeah. Leaving their old lives behind.

Right. Like literally uprooting themselves. Yeah.

To follow him. And speaking of the disciples. Yeah.

You won't believe what happens next. Wait. Are you talking about John's disciples leaving him to follow Jesus? Yes.

That's exactly what I'm talking about. Because that's wild. It is wild.

Remember when John says, "He must become greater; I must become less? Yeah. It's like he's totally cool with his disciples jumping ship. It's almost like he expected it.

Right. Dr. Turner suggested it might have been kind of depressing for John. Yeah.

If he hadn't understood his mission, you know? To point people to Jesus. It's like John's the ultimate hype man. He is getting everyone excited for the main act.

Yeah. And then he just gracefully steps aside. Yes.

To let Jesus take center stage. It takes a lot of humility to do that. It really does.

It's like he's saying, "My purpose isn't to build my own following. Right. It's to point people to the one who can truly save them.

And that selflessness. Yeah. That's what makes John's testimony so powerful.

It's not about him. No. It's all about Jesus.

Exactly. And that's something we should all strive for. Right.

Putting others before ourselves. Absolutely. And, you know, we can't talk about these early disciples without mentioning Peter.

Peter, I mean, come on. He's kind of a big deal. He's a big deal.

He's like the rock star. He is. He's the rock star of the disciples.

Right. Dr. Turner was pointing out how John doesn't give us Peter's whole backstory. Oh, really? Like the other Gospels do.

You know, we don't get that dramatic call to discipleship or the fishing net dropping moment. So what is John focusing on? Well, it's interesting that he introduces Peter through his brother, Andrew. Okay.

Andrew is the one who first encounters Jesus. Right. And then runs to tell Peter, "We have found the Messiah.

It's like Andrew's Peter's hype man. Exactly. Just like John the Baptist was Jesus' hype man.

I love that. It's hype men all the way down. That's right.

So Andrew brings Peter to Jesus. Yeah. And what happens? Well, Jesus immediately gives Peter a new name, Cephas.

Cephas, which means... A rock. Rock. Okay.

And Dr. Turner pointed out that this name change... Yeah. ...is significant because it foreshadows Peter's future role in the church. That's right.

He's going to be the rock on which Jesus builds his church. So even in these early chapters, John's already giving us these hints about what's to come. He is.

Setting up these major themes that will play out throughout the rest of his gospel. It's like he's a master storyteller. He is.

Carefully weaving together all these seemingly random details into this cohesive narrative. It's amazing how much thought and intentionality... Yeah. ...went into writing this gospel.

And that's why it's so rewarding to study it. Yeah. You know, the more you dig in, the more you discover.

Absolutely. So to recap... Okay. ...we've got John the Baptist setting the stage.

Right. These first disciples taking these leaps of faith. Yeah.

And Jesus performing this incredible miracle at Cana. A miracle with layers. It's like we're watching the pieces of a puzzle fall into place.

I love that analogy. Revealing a bigger picture of who Jesus is... Yes. ...and what he came to do.

It's truly amazing. And you know what? As we continue our deep dive... Yeah. ...into the next part of John's gospel, we're going to see how these themes... Ah.

...of new creation, discipleship, and the revelation of Jesus's glory... Mm-hmm. ...they just continue to unfold in even more surprising ways. I can't wait.

You know, it's just amazing how much we've been able to unpack from just these few verses in John. I know, right? It's incredible. Dr. Turner really helped us see these layers of meaning that I think we might have totally missed otherwise.

He really does. He really brings those ancient texts to life. He does.

He does. And one thing that just keeps sticking with me... Yeah. ...is how Jesus's miracle at Cana wasn't just about solving a practical problem, you know? It was like a sneak peek into the very heart of his ministry.

Right. It wasn't just like, "Oh, we ran out of wine. Let me fix that."

No. It was this profound statement about who he is... and what he came to do. It was theological.

It was theological. And Dr. Turner, he made this really fascinating connection... between the miracle and those Old Testament prophecies... Right. ...about God's future blessing for Israel.

That's right. It's like he was saying, all that abundance and joy that God promised... Yeah. ...is here, embodied in Jesus.

I love that. It's like we're getting this little taste... Yeah, a fortunate... ...of the kingdom of God. We're breaking into the here and now.

Breaking into the here and now. Yeah, transforming everything. And speaking of transformation... Yeah.

...that idea of new creation, it just seems to be woven through the entire Gospel of John. It really does, yeah. From the word becoming flesh in the prologue... Right.

...to this miracle at Cana. It's like we're witnessing the birth of a new world. Yeah.

A world where impossible things become possible. Where darkness gives way to light. Exactly.

And it's not just something that we observe from a distance, right? No, no, no. It's a world that we're invited to step into... That's right. ...to experience for ourselves.

That's what Jesus is all about. It's that constant invitation: come and see. Come and see, that's it.

It's not about passive observation. No. It's about active engagement.

Yes. A journey of faith. And that journey starts with recognizing who Jesus really is.

Right. We've encountered all these messianic titles in this passage. Okay.

Messiah, Lamb of God, Son of God, King of Israel. They're all so powerful. Each one highlights a different aspect of his identity.

Like facets of a jewel, right? Yes, exactly. And ultimately, it's about trusting him. Yeah.

Putting our faith in him. Right. Letting him work his transformative power in our lives.

Which brings us back to the miracle at Cana. It's like a blueprint for how Jesus works in us. Oh, interesting.

Just like he transformed that ordinary water into extraordinary wine... Right. ...he wants to transform our ordinary lives... Right. ...into something extraordinary.

Yeah. Something overflowing with his presence, his joy, his purpose. But it's not always a flashy, instant transformation, is it? No.

That's a good point. Remember how subtly Jesus performed this miracle? Yeah. Almost secretly.

Like he didn't want to draw attention to himself. Right. And that's so important.

It is. God often works in quiet, hidden ways. It's not always about the big, dramatic moments... Yeah.

...but the steady, consistent outpouring of his grace. Yeah. In the everyday.

Exactly. It's like those stone jars slowly filling up with the finest wine. It took time.

Yeah. It was a gradual process. A process.

It's not instant coffee, right? No. No instant miracles here. So that's a good reminder for us, isn't it? Oh, it is.

To be patient. Yeah. To trust the process.

Right. To believe that even when things seem ordinary, God is at work... Yes. ...creating something beautiful.

That's a great word, beautiful. So to bring it all together... Okay. ...I feel like we've gotten this incredible glimpse into the heart of Jesus' mission... We have.

...through this deep dive into John 1.19 to 2.12. It's been an amazing journey. We've seen John the Baptist passionately pointing to Jesus... as the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sin of the world. Right.

We've witnessed those first disciples... Yeah. ...drawn to Jesus, answering his invitation to come and see. Come and see.

And we've explored the rich symbolism of that first miracle at Cana... Hmm. ...a sign that points to the transformative power of Jesus' ministry. Yes.

The abundance he offers, the new creation he brings. Beautifully put. And what strikes me is how this passage really sets the stage for the rest of John's gospel.

It does. It's like an invitation. It is an invitation.

To journey with Jesus... Yeah. ...to witness his glory... Right. ...and to experience the wonder... Yeah.

...of his transforming love. I love that. And for you, our listener... Yeah.

...as you go about your week... Okay. ...keep an eye out for those glimpses of God's transforming power... Hmm. ...those Cana moments... Yes.

...where the ordinary becomes extraordinary... Yeah. ...where hope breaks through...
Right. ...where love makes all things new.

And remember, you don't have to journey alone... Yeah. ...just like those first disciples.
We're invited to walk together... Yeah.

...to encourage one another. To share the joy of discovering who Jesus is... Yeah. ...and the
amazing things he can do in our lives.

What a great way to wrap up this deep dive. It has been a pleasure. Thanks for joining us.

And until next time... Yeah. ...keep exploring, keep asking questions... Yeah. ...keep seeking
truth.

We'll see you next time. See you next time.