

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

JOHN 2-3

Ole Lester was running moonshine across state lines. One day, he was drinking some of the contraband. A policeman saw his truck weaving and pulled him over. “*Son, what’s in the jug?*” Lester told him, “*Water, Sir. I’m going to church to worship Jesus.*”

The policeman grabbed the bottle and took a whiff.

“*Son, that’s not water, that’s white lightning.*” Lester shouted, “*Well, praise the Lord! He’s done it again!*”

He was referring to the story we find in John 2...

“*On the third day...*” The third day after Jesus and His disciples had left John baptizing on the Jordan and come north to Galilee. “*There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there...*”

Wedding feasts in first century Israel lasted a whole week... With a daughter of my own, I’ve paid for one wedding, and catering a single meal almost broke me! *Imagine throwing a party that lasted seven days!*

This particular bride and groom must’ve known Mary and her family. Jesus’ mom was attending the wedding, *and this couple had made a very important decision, probably without realizing its significance...* “*Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.*”

Let me say to all married couples, *here’s the best thing you can do for a marriage... invite Jesus to the wedding!* Include Him in your marriage from the start.

Marriage is God's idea, and who better to help you with yours than God made flesh. Here's a question for all couples... *Have you invited Jesus to your marriage?*

When you invite Jesus to your marriage, you get... *a pastor* who'll remind you of your vows... *a wedding director* who'll keep you in step... *a counselor* who'll help you with adjustments and disputes.... *a family planner* to give you wisdom... *a coach* to keep you enthused... **Jesus is everything a couple needs!**

It's significant that Jesus' first miracle occurred at a wedding; for every marriage needs a miracle from time to time. And over the years Jesus has proven nothing has changed, **He still likes to work miracles in marriages!**

And like most weddings, this one was an exuberant, happy occasion... *that is, until the wine ran out...*

Verse 3, **"And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Hospitality was the supreme priority in the first century. And to run dry at a party was the ultimate social embarrassment.**

Here, Mary's statement implies she believes Jesus can do something about the problem... But in verse 4, **"Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."**

On the surface, this seems like a stern way for Jesus to address his mother. But the term translated **"woman"** isn't as crude as it sounds. It's a more generic word. Not as

degrading as "broad or dame," but not as affectionate as "mom." It was like the term, "female."

Jesus was making a point. The time had come to redefine His relationship with Mary. He's letting his mom know that *God's eternal plan* isn't going to cater to *her maternal needs*. Life is changing for them both.

Author, Mary Zoba writes of Jesus' treatment here of his mother, Mary, "Why, at the wedding, did Jesus push His mother away? Why couldn't He call her 'mom' in front of the throng? A mother needs to know these things. But then a mother - even Jesus' mother - needs to know the Savior more. And how else could she have found her Savior without first losing Him as her son?"

For 30-plus years, Jesus had been Mary's boy. Since Joseph died early in Jesus' life, He'd taken over the carpenter's shop and probably the role as *the head of household*. Mary leaned on Jesus during those years.

For three decades, Mary had Jesus to herself, but He ultimately belonged to God. It was time for her to let Him go. Their relationship will change. Jesus is about to go from **son** to **Savior**. He'll become Mary's **Lord**.

And there comes a time when every mother has to let go of her child. The transition of turning loose of *a child* and getting back *a friend* is a difficult one, but it's necessary... *Mom, never forget your son or daughter is a loaner! He or she is on loan from God, and one day God expects you to give that child back to Him.*

Verse 5, "His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." And here is the last recorded statement of Mary in all the Scriptures. Rather than focus on or exalt herself, she points people to Jesus.

Roman Catholics teach people to pray to Mary thinking she has clout with Jesus. That's a false idea.

If Mary appeared *today*, her message would be the same as *that day*, "*Whatever (Jesus) says, do it.*"

The last thing Mary would want us to do is worship, or serve, or pray to her. She'd tell us to obey Jesus!

Verse 6, "Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water."

And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine..." A molecular miracle occurs. What went in as water came out as wine. *Jesus is a handy guy to have around!*

"And (the host) did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Notice, the caterer's reaction. He says usually the best wine is poured first. Later you bring out the cheap stuff. Implied is

that once the crowd is a little tipsy they won't notice that the quality of wine has diminished. But this host is shocked that the best wine was served last!

Obviously, unlike what I was taught in the Baptist church growing up, the wine Jesus created was more than a stiff glass of Welch's. It was fermented wine.

It's true, first century wine didn't have the same alcohol content of wine today, but it wasn't just grape juice. What Jesus miraculously created was real wine!

And if the Lord of glory supplied a party with wine what's wrong with His followers drinking it? **The answer? Nothing!** *Just as long as they don't get drunk or tempt others to overindulge...* The NT teaches us moderation. Christians can drink alcohol, as long as they are never controlled by anything but Jesus!

But it's true, Jesus turned real water into real wine... and He's still busy turning water into wine...

Jesus can take the mundane, boring, drab duties of life, and make them sweet and intoxicating. *Has your life been infected with boredom and drabness?*

Once a flight attendant announced to the plane's passengers, *"For lunch today, you'll have a choice of chicken Marengo, beef burritos, or fruit salad."* Then she added, *"And if you don't get your first choice, don't worry. All our entrees taste very much the same."*

After a while, that's what happens in life - everything starts to taste the same. Experiences become blah. Pleasures taste bland. It's the same ole same ole.

Life tastes like water. But Jesus turns water into wine by fermenting our lives with His Spirit. Jesus spiritually spikes the punch of everyday life. He can lift us out of the rut and turn life into an adventure. He replaces our blahs with bubbly. He restores some sparkle to our life.

And recall where this miracle took place - at a *wedding*. Perhaps you feel stuck in a boring marriage. Your *holy matrimony* has turned into *holy monotony*.

It's been said, "Marriage is like a violin - after the music stops the strings are still attached." *Is there any hope for a boring marriage?* You bet there is!

Jesus can spice up your marriage!

Here's what you should do: *you and your spouse kneel together, invite Jesus into your marriage; then open your Bible and do whatever He tells you to do. Do your part, and He'll do a miracle in your marriage.*

Verse 11, "This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. After this, He went down to Capernaum..." On the Sea of Galilee, 16.5 miles from Cana, Capernaum served as home base for Jesus' ministry in Galilee. "He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days."

For "Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves and the moneychangers doing business." The religious hierarchy had turned the *Jewish temple* into a *Target*.

A worshipper could only sacrifice a priestly-approved lamb... and these lambs were only available from Temple-sanctioned outlets where the sacrifices were sold at exorbitant prices. Kickbacks went to the priests.

It was all a scam, *as was the Temple tax...* When you went to give your offering, the priest wouldn't accept Roman or Gentile coins. They first had to be exchanged for Temple tokens. And of course, this was done for a fee, at an outrageous exchange rate. *Sadly the leaders of the Temple were making a buck-off-God.*

And how did Jesus react to this corruption? "When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.

I used to think Jesus just got caught up in the moment. He reached for whatever was within His reach. It could've been a broom, or stick - it just happened to be *a whip*. But that's not how it went down. Note the wording, He *"made a whip of cords."*

I picture Jesus eyeballing these crooked priests as He weaves a whip. His blood is boiling! His hands are clinching. *He's angry.* He knows this is about to go ballistic. It's going to turn ugly. Realize, Jesus cleansed the Temple in a premeditated act of aggression.

So much for *"gentle Jesus meek and mild."* Jesus was a manly man willing to take matters into His own hands when need be. Remember, Jesus was a carpenter by trade. He no doubt had muscles on His frame. Here Jesus tosses the crooks out on their ear.

Verse 16, “And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!” These so-called *prophets* were only concerned about monetary *profits*.

And sadly, some churches have the same concern.

Realize, what made the Temple racket so disgusting to Jesus was not just what was happening, but where it was happening... in the Court of the Gentiles.

If you were a Roman or a foreigner, this was as deep into the Temple as you could go. This meant your one exposure to God was colored by greed not godliness.

I think today **the media** - the internet, TV, radio - is the equivalent of *the Court of the Gentiles*. It's as far as some folks look into the things of God. It's shameful that some ministries portray God as broke and greedy. Churches today should be whipped into shape again.

In the aftermath of this cleansing, verse 17 tells us, “His disciples remembered that it was written (and the quote is of Psalm 69:9), “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.” The psalmist had predicted Messiah's zeal. Jesus was passionate about sincere worship.

“So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” Jesus had just rinsed the Temple of hypocrisy. It's likely, He's still standing in the hallways of this colossal

structure. Herod's Temple was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world...

That Jesus would say He was going to destroy the Temple and raise it up in three days was *stunning*...

“Then the Jews said, “It has taken 46 years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

The first Temple was demolished by the Babylonians in 586 BC. The second Temple was rebuilt seventy years later by the Jews who returned from Babel. In 40 BC Herod came to power, and to appease the Jews he started a massive expansion and renovation to the Temple. By the time of Jesus, construction had been going on 46 years. *Now Jesus says the sign of His authority is to tear it down and rebuild it in a weekend?*

The Jews listening to Jesus were scratching their heads, only because they didn't have the right Temple!

John explains in verse 21, “**But He was speaking of the temple of His body.**” The sign Jesus would give the Jews was His death and bodily resurrection.

The Temple was God's residence on Earth, but if the Jews had been perceptive, they would've realized God had never revealed His presence in Herod's Temple.

He'd waited on a new Temple. Jesus is where God's presence rested - *in flesh and blood, not in brick and mortar*. His resurrection was the ultimate sign. The disciples recalled this later, verse 22, “**Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.**”

“Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.” Notice, these intriguing words, Jesus *“didn’t commit Himself to them.”* At the time, lots of people followed Jesus, but for the wrong reasons.

And Jesus had no confidence in their affections and loyalties. Thus, He kept the crowds at arms distance.

They were only after miracles, not a Messiah... *It’s one thing to say you’re committed to Jesus, but the relationship isn’t real until He commits Himself to you.*

In Chapter 3, we tune in to the original **“Nick at Nite!”**

Rabbi Nicodemus comes to Jesus under the cover of darkness in pursuit of more light. **“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.”**

Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, or the Jewish Supreme Court. He was a VIP. Nicodemus had a reserved parking space outside the Hall of Hewn Stones where the Sanhedrin held their assemblies.

This rabbi was a somebody - verse 10 calls him not just **“a teacher of Israel”** but **“the teacher of Israel.”**

People in the know yielded to Nicodemus. He was a rabbi to rabbis. He was a *scholar*, a *statesman*, but most importantly, Nicodemus was a *seeker of truth*.

“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 was impressed by Jesus’ miracles, *yet why the secrecy - the after-hours visit?*

Remember, Jesus had just cleansed the Temple and declared war on the priestly establishment. He threw down the gauntlet. And Nicodemus isn’t quite ready to pick it up and take sides with Jesus *until He gets some of his questions answered. Thus, this meeting...*

Verse 3, “Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Recall the end of Chapter 2, “Jesus knew what was in man.” Jesus saw what was on Nicodemus’ mind before he ever opened his mouth. For like all Jews at the time, Nicodemus hated Rome’s occupation. He longed for Israel’s former glory. He expected Messiah to bring in God’s Kingdom.

Understand too, Nicodemus was a Jewish scholar, schooled in the OT. He had read the promises God made to Jeremiah and Ezekiel and to the Jews who came back from Babylon. We call it *the New Covenant*.

It consisted of three promises: *return* the Jews to their land, *regenerate* or revive their hearts, *reestablish* God’s kingdom to Israel. *Return them logistically. Regenerate them spiritually. Restore them politically.*

Now, in Nicodemus’ mind the first two promises of the NC had been fulfilled. **First**, the Jews had returned from Babylon.

And **second**, there was a revival of sorts occurring in Judaism. At the time, the sect known as the Pharisees consisted of 6000 rabbis all across Israel. And they were showing a renewed zeal for the Law.

But here's Nicodemus' mistake. He interpreted the Pharisees' legalism as a revival. *Thus, in his thinking Promise **Three** was next - the coming of the kingdom!*

This is why in verse 3, Jesus slows him down. Yes, the Jews have returned, but they still lack *a new heart*. Jesus challenges Nicodemus' understanding in verse 3 *"Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* Legalism could alter a person's conduct, but only God's Spirit can birth a new heart - a new nature. To be part of His kingdom you have to be *"born again."*

In other words, Step 2 of the New Covenant comes before Step 3. To participate in God's kingdom you first have to be **regenerated - or made alive spiritually.**

The term Jesus used, *"born again,"* at first confused Nicodemus. He thought of a natural, physical birth.

Notice his response, 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?"* He's confused. *What does "born again" mean?*

"Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." To be born again is to be *"born of the Spirit"* - God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit shocks the dead spirit of a man back to life with God.

But what does Jesus mean by *“born of water?”* This is where the discussion can get controversial...

Some Bible teachers interpret *“water”* as the ministry of John the Baptist or **repentance**. You have to repent; then the Holy Spirit will spark new life. Repentance precedes regeneration. *This is true and a possibility...*

Others say *“water”* speaks of **natural birth** - a mother's *amniotic fluids*. In other words, to be born again spiritually, you first have to be born physically, which makes sense, but I believe there's more to it...

Still others believe *“water”* means **God's Word**. **Ephesians 5:26** speaks of *“the washing of water by the Word...”* Just as it takes two parents to produce a child, it takes the *Word of God* and *Spirit of God* to produce a *child of God*. This interpretation is also a possibility.

What is NOT a possible translation of the phrase *“born of water”* is **baptism**. People who claim baptism is essential for salvation often justify it with this verse.

But recall the thief on the cross. He wasn't baptized, yet entered God's Kingdom. Baptism is significant, but not mandatory. It's not what's meant by *“born of water.”*

I believe when Jesus used the phrase *“born of water”* He was taking Nicodemus back to the OT and the New Covenant. God had promised His people He would replace their hard heart with a heart sensitive to Him.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 describes the NC (and new birth) as *sprinkling clean water* - and the putting of a *new spirit* within

you. These are the two idioms Jesus uses: *“water and Spirit.”* And to a Jewish rabbi skilled in the OT, like Nicodemus, *“water and Spirit”* were shorthand for the spiritual transformation promised by the NC. In essence, Jesus is telling Nicodemus to study Ezekiel.

In fact, he should've known this. Jesus rebukes him, *“Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?”* Nicodemus wouldn't have known of Christian baptism, but he was familiar with *“water and Spirit.”*

Verse 6 continues, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* It takes a work of God's Spirit for a man to be born again.

Pharisaism or legalism could clean up the outside of a person - their conduct - yet they would still be dirty on the inside. *Looking good* isn't the same as *being good*.

Take a pig... dress it in a child's clothes... *no matter, he's still an oinker!* He's just hamming it up. He's still a stinker at heart. His instincts, his nature are piggish.

And likewise, you can't just *“spit and polish”* a sinner, and change their heart. *Real righteousness is an inside job. It's a work of God's Spirit.* Thus, Jesus says, *“Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.’”*

And in verse 8 Jesus talks more about the Spirit...

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Watch the flags flap at Wrigley Field. The wind gusts off Lake Michigan. One moment it's blowing in - *the pitcher's*

friend. The next moment it's blowing out - the hitter's helper. But you can never predict? The wind has a mind of its own. And so does the Holy Spirit.

The wind is sovereign - and so is God's Spirit. The Spirit has a will of His own. This is why the new birth is not a formula you follow - or a prayer you plug in and out drops salvation. Spiritual life is nothing less than a supernatural miracle dispensed by God's Holy Spirit.

Verse 9, "Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?" This upstart, country preacher from Gailee had just given Israel's best Bible teacher a vital lesson in the New Covenant that he had overlooked.

Nicodemus needs to think this through. In the weeks ahead he will, and he'll become a believer in Jesus.

In verse 11, Jesus continues to speak to Nicodemus. "Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? Jesus used the *human* to explain the *heavenly*. He had spoken figuratively about being "*born again*," but Nicodemus had been thinking literally.

He needs to be more spiritually minded, *as do we!*

Jesus says, "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in

heaven.” This is the first of many verses where Jesus says He’s “*come down from heaven.*”

This idea is a powerful proof-text for His deity. Humans are not pre-existent. Human life begins at conception, yet Jesus existed prior to being conceived. He was from eternity past. He “*came from heaven!*”

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” In Numbers 21 when the Israelites in the wilderness rebelled against God, they were bitten by poisonous snakes. *And God gave Moses a cure...*

He made a bronze serpent, put it on a pole, and set it in the middle of the camp. When a person looked at the serpent, they were healed. The look of faith was the antidote to the poison. *And this was symbolic...*

In the OT, brass spoke of judgment. The serpent was a reminder of sin and its poisonous effects. It was on the cross of Jesus that God judged sin by becoming sin for us. Now a gaze of faith at the crucified Christ is all it takes for us to be healed from the poison of sin.

And here’s one of the most famous verses in all of the Bible, John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

If love is best measured by what a person is willing to give up on behalf of the one it loves; then there has never been a

more extreme love than the Father's love for us. *That He sacrificed His one and only Son for us!*

Someone suggested to appreciate John 3:16, when you come to the words "*world*" and "*whoever*" substitute your own name. It's music to your ears. Try it with your name! "For God so loved Sandy that He gave His only begotten Son, that if Sandy believes in Him Sandy should not perish but have everlasting life."

Verse 17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Jesus' intent is to save, not condemn! But since there's only one way to save us, God can't do the one without the other. Those who aren't saved, will invariably be condemned.

For "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Jesus doesn't condemn. He's not a prosecutor. The Bible is clear, Jesus works for the defense. He's earned for us a pardon, but it's up to you to receive it... You can reject Jesus' pardon, but if you do, don't blame Him for your inevitable judgment.

We condemn ourselves. Nobody goes to hell because Jesus rejected them. They reject Jesus.

"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." Sin turns us into moles. It forces us underground.

Sin causes us to love the darkness, less the light expose our rebellion.

It's not that people *can't believe* - it's that they *won't believe*.
"Men loved darkness rather than light."

In the dark, you can believe the lies. But come out of the darkness and into God's light, and you're forced to deal with the truth. Jesus says in verse 21, "He who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Verse 22, "After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized." Later in 4:2, we learn it wasn't Jesus actually baptizing. His disciples baptized in His name. But folks were baptized as followers of Jesus.

"Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there." This location was further north of the Dead Sea from where Jesus was baptized by John. Aenon paralleled Samaria.

In the fall, the dry season, the Jordan River can diminish to a trickle. John the Baptist needed deeper water, so he moved his headquarters upstream.

And the people still found him! "And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison. Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification." The term "*purification*" referred to the outward, ceremonial washings that were so integral to Orthodox Judaism.

“And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified (that is, Jesus) - behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!” John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.” Here the Jews try to fan the flame of envy and competition in John’s heart. They point out that Jesus is moving in and taking away his disciples.

Yet here’s the key to combating jealousy - John realizes all true authority and blessing comes directly from God. To be jealous of another man’s ministry is to question the wisdom and plan of God Himself.

John the Baptist told them, verse 28 “You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’ John knew who he was, and who he wasn’t. He had no visions of grandeur.

“He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.” John realized he wasn’t the groom. Jesus was the groom. John was content and happy with just being the best man. And when a marriage occurs, the best man’s job is finished!

Thus, verse 30, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” It’s been said, “Another name for a wedding ring is a one-man band.” The best man’s job is to support the groom, not woo the bride. He knows how to bow out. “*He must increase, but I must decrease.*”

And notice in Chapter 3, there are three “**musts.**” First, the must of the **sinner**, verse 7, “**You must be born again.**” Verse 14, the must of the **Savior**, “**the Son of Man must be lifted up.**” And verse 30, the must of the Lord’s **servant**, “**He must increase. I must decrease.**”

Verse 31 “**He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth.**”

He who comes from heaven is above all. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that **God is true.**” Jesus came from above. Thus, if you’re looking down, wrapped up in this life, you’ll miss Him. Be spiritually-minded....

I once drove a forklift for a living. My job was to wheel pallet after pallet into a metal cold room through an 8 foot high door; then lift the pallets onto 20 foot high shelving. One trip, I raised-up the forks, stocked the pallet, then backed up forgetting to lower the forks.

I was too busy looking down to focus on above, and I rammed the back of the forks into the metal wall over the doorway... *It was horrible.* The moral of the story is look up! Always look up! Stay open to God’s thoughts.

Verse 34, “**For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.**” Ephesians 4:7 tells us, “**To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.**” God gives to every Christian certain spiritual gifts.

We're entrusted with a measure or portion of the Spirit's endowment. But to Jesus, *God did not give the Spirit by measure.* He was given *without measure.* God didn't give to Jesus one or two spiritual gifts, He received them all. He is the depot of all spiritual power.

“The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.” God put all His eggs in one basket. All God's wisdom and power was given to His Son, Jesus.

And it's fitting, that our destiny hinge upon our attitude to Jesus. *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*