

## Week 2: Where we meet

In John's Gospel there are seven signs that are written so that we may believe. But it is not the signs that are important, it is who performed them.

Whenever you see an amazing stage illusion, there is always the question, "How did they do that?" Why they did it, is easy. They did it for the fame, the adulation and the money. But they never tell you "how" they did it.

Jesus did not perform miracles to gain fame, adulation or become rich. He only ever owned the clothes he stood up in. And although he did become popular with the crowds, it was not fame or adulation he sought. In fact he slipped away when the crowd came to crown him their king. But if we look at what he did, and the significance off the miracle, we discover how it is we can believe in this man, Jesus.

### Read John 2:1-11

1. What stands out to you as you hear this story?
2. How familiar are you with the story?
3. Have you noticed anything, perhaps for the first time?
4. Put yourself in the story as different characters.
  - Who knew what Jesus did?
  - How do you think they felt?
  - How do you think those who didn't know felt?
5. No one proclaimed this as a miracle a the time, so if it was a sign what do you think it signified?
6. How might the statement the master of the banquet made be a statement about God's salvation plan?
7. What do we discover about Jesus from this story?

### Deeper In

The background to the tradition of ceremonial washing is not particularly clear.

- Matthew 15:1-2
- Matthew 15:3-10 – Jesus takes the idea beyond physical cleanliness

Ceremonial washing is described by the Pharisees in Matthew as "*the tradition of the elders*", which indicates that it did not come directly from, but is a response to the Law of Moses.

You get an idea of what is unclean in Leviticus 11–15.

- Leviticus 11:21-25

In the sermon we looked at the contrast between the empty old covenant and something new that was to replace it.

The writer to the Hebrews explains the difference between the old covenant of the earthly tabernacle and the new covenant that results from Christ's once and for all sacrifice in Hebrews 9-10.

- Hebrews 9:9-10

"The new order" (v.10) The old has been replaced by the new when Jesus came.

Next Week: John 4:46-54 Living as if ...

