

The Gospel According to John

Thoughts from Greg Reed on the

Reading for Week of January 19: John 2:1-3:21

view the video at www.vimeo.com/fbcknox/gatjweek2

Video Transcript:

John's not so concerned about telling the chronological story of Jesus. I think John was more about telling the story of the grandeur of Jesus, the eternity of Jesus, the love of God, as expressed through Jesus and how that might inform how we ought to have our relationship, not only to him, but also to each other. In reading the passage for this week, there were three stories to illustrate how Jesus was beginning to relate to people early in his ministry. The first story, which was the Wedding Story -- which is so well known by many people -- when I looked at that *this* Time, it was ... "Okay... he was responding to his love for his mother, and his concern for his mother feeling some responsibility to this family, the social embarrassment the family was in. So this was a story about, not so much wanting to show his power, as to show his concern.

In the second story, he was in the temple, cleansing the temple of the money dealers that were doing things that weren't exactly *helping* the people who had come to the temple seeking God. So it was his love for these people, who apparently were being taken advantage of while they were trying to worship God, and that motivated him.

Then in the third story it was about the Pharisee, who is a very learned person and who would supposedly know everything that was supposed to be known about God, but it was his love for that person, to say that "Yes you know a lot, but you haven't fully understood what this relationship is all about." So, again, it was the love for the person, the love for the people that was motivating all of these actions, and John was trying to illustrate that through these stories. Well I think in reading John, this time, it helped me to reinforce the fact that the love of God is eternal. It's always present. It's always available. And there are things that happen in life that we wish hadn't happened or that we don't see them right now as the best thing that happened, but I always come back to the fact that the love of God will sustain us and the good things that God does for us are with us even in the midst of the troubles that might be part of our lives. And by reading John I think it helps to reinforce that. And it helps us to remember that the love of God is eternal and it is present each and every day.