

THREE FACTS ABOUT JESUS

John 2:12-25

(John 2:12-25), "After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days. {13} And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, {14} And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: {15} And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; {16} And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. {17} And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. {18} Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign showest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? {19} Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. {20} Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? {21} But he spake of the temple of his body. {22} When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. {23} Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. {24} But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, {25} And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."



S **LISTEN FOR THE WORD "MANIFEST."**

- **(John 1:31)**, "And I {John the Baptist} knew him {Jesus} not: but that HE SHOULD BE MADE **MANIFEST** to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water."
- **(John 2:11)**, "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and **MANIFESTED** forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him."

THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN SO THAT JESUS WOULD BE MADE MANIFEST TO THE WORLD. "MANIFEST" MEANS to be "apparent," or "clearly visible."

S **THE DISCIPLES WERE CONFIDENT ENOUGH** through what God had manifest through Jesus, to leave everything and follow Him. **TIME WOULD PROVE THEY** had made the correct decision by following Him. Times would arise when they would wonder if Jesus was really God's Messiah, but evidence would always prove Him true.

WHEN **JOHN THE BAPTIST** WAS UNDER ARREST, HE SENT WORD TO JESUS asking Him **THIS QUESTION:**

(Luke 7:20), "... 'Are you he that should come? or look we for another?'"

JESUS SENT THIS ANSWER:

(Luke 7:22-23), "... Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the **blind** see, the **lame** walk, the **lepers** are cleansed, the **deaf** hear, the **dead** are raised, to the **poor** the gospel is preached. {23} And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me."

The more they discovered about Jesus, the more **evident** it is that JESUS TRULY WAS THE MESSIAH just as Andrew had stated (John 1:41).

S **LIKE THE DISCIPLES**, THE MORE WE DISCOVER ABOUT JESUS, the more we understand the **CORRECT DECISION IN LIFE** is to follow Him with all our hearts. Jesus truly is the *LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS*. **WISE IS** the person who confesses Jesus as Lord of their life.

S **TODAY'S TEXT REVEALS THREE TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS**. God wanted us to know these things so much that He sent His only begotten Son (John 3:16). The Bible was written so that we might know through writing what the disciples knew through personal experience.

(1 John 5:13), "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **THAT YE MAY KNOW** that ye have eternal life, and **THAT YE MAY BELIEVE** on the name of the Son of God."

LET'S JOIN THE DISCIPLES as we make **THREE DISCOVERIES** about Jesus.

- I. JESUS HAD **ZEAL** FOR HIS FATHER'S **HOUSE**
- II. JESUS HAD **CONFIDENCE** IN HIS FATHER'S **PLAN**
- III. JESUS **UNDERSTOOD** THE NATURE OF THE **HUMAN HEART**

I. JESUS HAD ZEAL FOR HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

(V. 12), "After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days."

S **TRAVELING WITH JESUS** was His **mother**, His **brothers**, and His **disciples**. After Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary had other children. Jesus had been with them in **CANA** for the wedding (2:1).

S From Cana He traveled "**DOWN**" to the town of **CAPERNAUM**. It is called "down to Capernaum" because Capernaum was located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is 686 feet below sea level. Though Jesus would eventually make Capernaum His ministry headquarters, He stayed there **only a SHORT time** at this juncture in His ministry.

(V. 13), "And the Jews' **PASSOVER** was at hand, and Jesus **WENT UP** to **JERUSALEM**,"

S It says "**WENT UP**" because Jesus was located in the mountains. The journey from Capernaum to Jerusalem would have been approximately **80 MILES**. In our last study we saw how Jesus had walked 70 MILES. Jesus and the disciple must have been in good physical condition.

S The **FEAST OF PASSOVER** was observed annually in the city of Jerusalem. **O.T. LAW REQUIRED** every eligible male to attend the feast annually. That requirement guaranteed the Feast of Passover would be attended by a multitude of worshipers. Many worshipers would have to journey from miles away. The city was literally filled with worshipers because of this biblical requirement for attendance. Because Jesus was faithful to O.T. law, He made the journey to Jerusalem, too.

S INDICATIONS ARE THIS WAS **THE FIRST OF FOUR PASSOVERS** Jesus would attend during His public ministry.

- (1) Jesus' first Passover is presented in our text, **John 2:13**. At this Passover, Jesus **cleansed the temple**.
- (2) It has been suggested the second recorded Passover is described in **John 5:1**. At this Passover Jesus **healed the man** at the pool of Bethesda.
- (3) The third Passover is mentioned in **John 6:4**. At this time Jesus fed the **five thousand**.
- (4) The fourth Passover is mentioned in **John 12:1**. At this Passover Jesus would be **crucified**.

S JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED DURING PASSOVER BECAUSE JESUS WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT FEAST. Jesus said,

(Mat 5:17), "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

THE PASSOVER FEAST **COMMEMORATED** the night Israel was delivered from EGYPTIAN BONDAGE. On the night of the first Passover in Egypt, the death angel passed over the houses that had lamb's blood smeared on the doorposts. That blood on the doorposts was **A TYPE OF**, a prophetic picture of, the shed blood of the One John the Baptist called *the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world* (John 1:29). Jesus would eventually shed His blood during the Feast of Passover so that we could be forgiven of our sin.

UPON ENTERING THE TEMPLE THAT FIRST PASSOVER FEAST, **JESUS WAS OVERCOME BY WHAT HE SAW.**

(V. 14), "And found in the temple those that sold **OXEN** and **SHEEP** and **DOVES**, and the changers of money sitting:"

- (1) **THE PURPOSE FOR THE ANIMALS** at the temple was so they might be sold to the religious pilgrims for use as **BLOOD SACRIFICES**. Many of the religious pilgrims had made long journeys to the feast. Because of the distance, they were not able to bring animals with them. Upon arrival it was convenient for them to purchase an animal for their sacrifice that was already located at the temple.
- (2) **THE ANIMALS** were **LOCATED** somewhere in the **TEMPLE COURTYARD**. The animals would not have been herded up in the temple proper. They would have been kept and sold in the area that surrounded the temple called the courtyard of the gentiles. A diagram of the temple would be helpful at this point.
- (3) **MERCHANTS and MONEY CHANGERS** were active **SELLING** those animals to the religious pilgrims. The travelers were happy to purchase the animals so they might make a sacrifice to God. Purchasing the animals at the temple kept the traveling pilgrims from having to carry animals with them on their journey.

(V. 15), "And when **HE** had **MADE A SCOURGE OF SMALL CORDS**, he drove them all out of the temple, . . ."

- S JESUS MADE A WHIP OUT OF CORDS.** I grew up on a **FARM** and ranch. We raised cattle and on numerous occasions each year we would work those cattle. We used whips to force the cattle to get where they were suppose to go. Sometimes we enjoyed tormenting one another by popping one another with the whip. If someone hit you just right, it was

very painful. We never played that game very long.

- S IF YOU HAVE WATCHED **THE NEWS** lately, you have seen folks using a whip on TV. Masses of people in **AFGHANISTAN** had come to pick up food after the battle for Kabul was finished. Did you see what the guards did to keep the crowds from pressing too hard against the supply trucks? They had some type of rod, or whip, that they began to whack individuals with to force them to move back. The crowd did not react against the man with the whip, they simply moved back. We are not used to a whip to enforce law.

(V. 15-16), “And when he had made a scourge of small cords, **HE DROVE THEM ALL OUT OF THE TEMPLE**, and the **sheep**, and the **oxen**; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; { 16 } And said unto them that sold **doves**, ‘Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.’”

THREE IMPORTANT NOTES:

- (1) **JESUS WAS SO ANGRY HE RAN THE ANIMALS OUT** of the temple. Jesus didn't just scatter the animals around the temple courtyard, He **“drove them all out of the temple.”** It is true He scattered the money on the floor, but the animals he ran out.
- (2) **NOTE CAREFULLY** that Jesus did **NOT SET THE DOVES FREE** so they might fly away. Jesus simply told the merchants to take their goods out of the temple. He did not take from them what was rightfully theirs, He told them to do their business in places other than the temple. He did not destroy their property.
- (3) **THIS WAS THE FIRST OF TWO TEMPLE CLEANSINGS RECORDED IN THE GOSPELS.** (Some Bible students argue for one temple cleansing only.) The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke record a **second cleansing** of the temple the week of Jesus crucifixion.

JESUS' FIRST CLEANSING caught the temple authorities by **surprise**. **HIS SECOND CLEANSING**, three years later, filled the religious leaders with **rage** and aided their pursuit of Jesus' crucifixion. **PERHAPS** the religious leaders of Jesus' day lived by the **MOTTO THAT SAYS**, “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.” They did not intend to let Jesus get away with cleansing the temple a third time. They would kill Jesus before they allowed Him to disturb the temple again.

- S **QUESTION - WHAT WAS IT THAT ANGERED JESUS SO MUCH** that He took a whip and **CLEANSED THE TEMPLE?** It appears to be a combination of things. **CONSIDER THREE INFLUENTIAL FACTORS:**

- (1) **THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES WERE RIPPING OFF THE RELIGIOUS PILGRIMS** who had journeyed so far to offer sacrifices to God. They took advantage of the worshipers in two different ways:
 - ◆ If the pilgrims had **FOREIGN CURRENCY** with a person's face on it, they would not allow that money to be used for purchase of sacrificial animals. That money had to first be exchanged. The cost for currency exchange was **EXORBITANT**.
 - ◆ After the pilgrims had exchanged their money, they would proceed to purchase their animal. The temple merchants would take them for a *second ride* by **JACKING UP THE PRICES** of

the sacrificial animals.

I remember as a kid the shock at discovering how much more things cost at an amusement park. Once inside the park, the only thing that was free was water and air. Everything else cost an arm and a leg.

- (2) **RELIGION HAD BECOME A PRETENSE.** The religious leaders had become **CORRUPT**. Their worship had become a **FACADE** for material gain. They were **RIPPING PEOPLE OFF IN THE NAME OF GOD**. By their actions they brought reproach on the name of God.

These are some of the reasons **JESUS WAS SO HARD** on the religious establishment of His day. Jesus addressed the spiritual condition of the religious leadership of that day:

- ◆ **(Mat 23:15)**, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.”
- ◆ **(Mat 23:25-26)**, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. {26} Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.”
- ◆ Jesus **CURSED THE FIG TREE** because it had no fruit. That tree was the symbol of the fruitless religion of that day (Mat 21:19). **THE CONDITION OF THE TEMPLE** was **AN INDICATOR** of the spiritual condition of the people.

- (3) **THE LOCATION OF THE TRANSACTIONS WAS ALSO AN OFFENSE.** The animals were being sold in the outer court of the temple. That area was better known as the **COURT OF THE GENTILES**. That was the place where God had intended those who knew Him to share the plan of God’s salvation with those who did not know Him. Instead of the temple being a witness to the world, it had become a center of commerce used to fill the pockets of the priests. Jesus said:

(V. 16), “. . . Make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.”

JESUS' ZEAL FOR THE HIS FATHER'S HOUSE ROSE TO THE SURFACE:

(V. 17), “. . . ‘The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.’”

- S Those words were taken from an **O.T. MESSIANIC PSALM**. JESUS' **"ZEAL"** FULFILLED AN O.T. PROPHECY:

(Psa 69:9), “For the **ZEAL** of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.”

- S **THE GREEK WORD FOR "ZEAL"** is built on a word that means **"TO BE HOT."** It is a picture of **water** that **boils**; a **fire** that **burns**; a **light** that **glows** with heat.

- S What Jesus saw in the temple that day made Him **"HOT."** As a result, the **LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH ROARED!**

(Prov 28:1), "The wicked flee when no man pursueth:
but **THE RIGHTEOUS ARE BOLD AS A LION.**"

S JESUS EXPRESSED HIS **RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION** IN
A VERY PUBLIC MANNER.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO **DISTINGUISH** BETWEEN "**SINFUL ANGER**"
& "**RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION.**"

◆ THE BIBLE **ALWAYS CONDEMNS "SINFUL ANGER"**

- **(James 1:20)**, "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."
- **WILL ROGERS** said, "People who fly into a rage very seldom make a very good landing."
- **MOST HUMAN ANGER IS SINFUL.**

◆ **HAVING SAID THAT**, it is important to realize that **ANGER CAN BE RIGHTEOUS.**

- **(Eph 4:26)**, "**BE YE ANGRY**, and sin not: . . . "
- **MARTIN LLOYD-JONES**

"It is one of the terrible aspects of paganism, that men and women become so steeped in sin that they are not aware of the fact that they are sinning, they cannot react at all, they never feel any sense of indignation or horror; they never become angry at all; they are past feeling... You have got to learn to be angry about [the world's sins]; you must be roused; you must not be complacent and say that sin does not matter! . . . How greatly this exhortation to anger is needed in the world today! Is not one of the greatest tragedies in the world at this hour the failure to feel moral indignation and wrath because of things that are happening? . . . There seems to be no protest. There are certain things that should rouse us and should be denounced"

(DARKNESS AND LIGHT, pgs. 229-230).

CONSIDER **THREE BIBLICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RIGHTEOUS ANGER:**

#1. RIGHTEOUS ANGER IS SLOW TO ARISE

(Neh 9:17), ". . . Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful,
SLOW TO ANGER, . . ."

(Psa 103:8), "The LORD is merciful and gracious, **SLOW TO ANGER, . . .**" (Nahum 1:3)

S **HOW MANY TIMES** had Jesus attended the Feast of Passover in Jerusalem? He had probably attended many over the years because it was a requirement for all men of a certain age. Isn't it logical to assume this was **not the first time** Jesus had seen the animals sold in the temple? He had likely seen this activity in the temple for many years. Out of all His visits to the temple, this was the first time Jesus had cleansed the temple. This fact would be an example of "SLOW TO ANGER."

S **GOD'S PATIENCE IS A PROOF OF HIS SLOW ANGER** and His **PATIENCE. NAME AN INSTANCE** where God moved in judgment without **FIRST WARNING** (examples: Noah's Flood; Sodom; the fall of Israel in 722 B.C.; the fall of Judah in 586 B.C.;

hell itself.)

S **GOD SAYS TO US:**

- **(James 1:19)**, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, **SLOW TO WRATH:**”
- **(Prov 16:32)**, “He that is **SLOW TO ANGER** is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.”

#1. RIGHTEOUS ANGER IS **SLOW TO ARISE**

#2. RIGHTEOUS ANGER ENDS QUICKLY

(Eph 4:26), “Be ye angry, and sin not, **LET NOT THE SUN GO DOWN UPON YOUR WRATH:**”

- S Search the Scripture and we will discover that **GOD'S WRATH IS SHORT LIVED**. The **Great Tribulation** will be a terrible time on earth, but it lasts only a short time.
- S If on occasion we are capable of expressing righteous anger, God does not want it to last long term. **THE WORDS** used to describe **LONG-TERM HUMAN ANGER** reveal how destructive it can be:
- **BITTERNESS**
 - **RESENTMENT**
- S **(Eph 4:31-32)**, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: {32} And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

#1. RIGHTEOUS ANGER IS **SLOW TO ARISE**

#2. RIGHTEOUS ANGER **ENDS QUICKLY**

#3. RIGHTEOUS ANGER ALWAYS OBEYS SCRIPTURE

- S Another way to say it is, *righteous anger* gets angry, but it does not sin in the process. It gets angry without sinning. Jesus expressed anger when He cleansed the temple, but He did not sin. In fact, Jesus was fulfilling Scripture when His zeal came to the surface and He cleansed the temple.
- S **A LADY WHO OPPOSED ABORTION** shared how she would get angry and fly off the handle in her early days of debate. She discovered that defeated her purpose rather than helped. She shared how the Lord taught her to speak the truth in love rather than with sinful anger (Eph 4:15).
- S **STEPHEN** was being stoned to death when he spoke these dying words:
(Acts 7:60), “And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, ‘**Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.**’ . . . ”
- S **JESUS' FIRST WORDS** from the cross were:
(Luke 23:34), “**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**”
- S **YES, JESUS REBUKED** the religious leaders in the temple that day, **BUT HOURS LATER** He would lay down His life so those very

same leaders could be offered forgiveness. Jesus was motivated by love, not by hatred.

- #1. RIGHTEOUS ANGER IS **SLOW TO ARISE**
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BY WAY OF APPLICATION — WHERE IS GOD'S TEMPLE

TODAY? If someone wanted to cleanse the temple as Jesus did two thousand years ago, where would they have to go to find the temple? Would they have to travel to Jerusalem? Would they go down to the local church building?

S **SUPPOSE** someone was to break into this church building at night in an attempt to defile the temple of God. Suppose they took a knife and cut the pews and threw cans of paint against the walls. They were so mean they took the hymnals and ripped the pages out of them. Would they have defiled the temple of God? They would not because the church building is not the temple of God.

S Paul told us where the temple is located today.
(1 Cor 6:19-20), "What? know ye not that **YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? {20} For ye are bought with a price: **THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD** in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

S **AS BELIEVERS, OUR BODIES ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD.**
God lives inside His children. God's temple is defiled when we **take this body/temple places** that God never intended it to be taken. We defile God's temple when we **take into** this temple things that God has forbidden. When we use our temple to personally carry out **dishonest business**, we defile God's temple.

IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THE DISCIPLES DISCOVERED **TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS** AS HE MANIFESTED HIMSELF EARLY IN HIS MINISTRY. One thing the disciples discovered early on was

I. JESUS HAD **ZEAL FOR HIS FATHER'S HOUSE**

II. JESUS HAD CONFIDENCE IN HIS FATHER'S

PLAN

THE TEMPLE AUTHORITIES WERE UPSET AND ASKED JESUS:

(V. 18), "... 'What sign showest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?'"

S **IT MADE GOOD SENSE** that the religious leaders asked Jesus to prove His authority. They had that **RIGHT AND OBLIGATION** to make sure Jesus was **NOT SOME CHARLATAN**. In an attempt to make Jesus prove His authority, **THEY ASKED FOR A "SIGN."**

(1 Cor 1:22), "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:"

S **IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST, JESUS GAVE A THEM A "SIGN."** It wasn't the sign they expected, but it was God's "sign" for them, nonetheless. Jesus gave them the same sign He would give in

Matthew 16, although He used different words to illustrate the sign.

(Mat 16:4), "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but **THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH**. . . ."

- S UNBEKNOWNST TO THEM, **JESUS GAVE THEM THE SIGN OF JONAH** in the temple that day. Rather than using Jonah as the illustration, Jesus used the "**TEMPLE**" as the illustration.

JESUS ANSWERED:

(V. 19), ". . . 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'"

THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES ANSWERED:

(V. 20), ". . . FORTY AND SIX YEARS was this temple in building, **AND** wilt **THOU** rear it up in three days?"

- S Construction on Herod's temple began in **20 B.C.** and was not completed until **A.D. 64**. **JOSEPHUS**, the historian, told how the temple was not completely finished until **NERO'S** reign (Ant. b. xx. c. 8, s. 5, 7). **THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WERE CERTAIN JESUS SPOKE OF HEROD'S TEMPLE.**
- S THE WORDS "**AND . . . YOU**" are **EMPHATIC** demonstrating their disdain for Jesus. **THEY MOCKED** what Jesus had to say and treated His comment with **CONTEMPT**.

(V. 21), "But he spake of the temple of his body."

JESUS KNEW His words would be **MET WITH IRE**. Realizing the anger His words would generate, Jesus spoke them anyway. He spoke them for **TWO REASONS:**

(1) **THE FATHER TOLD HIM TO SPEAK THEM:**

- **(John 7:16)**, "Jesus answered them, and said, **MY DOCTRINE IS NOT MINE, BUT HIS THAT SENT ME.**"
- **(John 8:26)**, "I have many things to say and to judge of you: but **HE** that sent me is true; and **I SPEAK TO THE WORLD THOSE THINGS WHICH I HAVE HEARD OF HIM.**"
- **(John 14:10)**, "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? **THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK** unto you I speak not of myself: but **THE FATHER** that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."

WE CAN BE THANKFUL **JESUS DIDN'T CHECK THE LATEST RELIGIOUS TRENDS** to determine what He was suppose to say. He **DIDN'T POLL** the crowd to determine the content of His speech. **JESUS** checked with the Father to determine what to say. Jesus would rather offend humanity and please the Father, than to please humanity and offend the Father.

(2) **JESUS WAS SETTING THE STAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

Jesus stated these words in such a manner that they would **NEVER BE FORGOTTEN**. He wanted them to **BE REMEMBERED** for the duration of His ministry.

SURE ENOUGH, HIS WORDS WERE NEVER FORGOTTEN. Jesus' comment regarding the temple followed Him throughout His ministry. The words He spoke that day were **later recalled on three separate occasions.**

- 1) When Jesus **STOOD ON TRIAL BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN, TWO WITNESSES TESTIFIED** against Jesus stating that He said He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (Mat 26:61; Mark 14:57-58). The authorities considered Jesus' statement regarding the temple so important that they entered it as evidence against Jesus at the trial that would determine His fate. When Jesus stated that day, **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,"** Jesus threw down a standard by which He could be judged. By using those exact words, He assumed the office of **A PROPHET.** The O.T. gave the standard for judging the truthfulness of a prophet. If what the prophet said came true, and was in accord with God's Word, the prophet was from God. If what the prophet had to say failed to come true, he was a false prophet. **THE O.T. PENALTY FOR A FALSE PROPHET WAS STONING.** The religious leaders used Jesus' statement regarding the temple as **A LEGAL RECOURSE** to pursue Jesus' execution by crucifixion. They found what they considered to be legal grounds for Jesus' death.

- 2) **AS JESUS HUNG ON THE CROSS,** those who walked by **MOCKED** Jesus using the words He had spoken in the temple. They threw that statement back in Jesus' face.
(Mat 27:39-40), "And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, {40} And saying, 'Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.'"

- 3) **THE THIRD USE OF JESUS' STATEMENT IS FOUND IN OUR TEXT.** It references the time after Jesus' resurrection when He had proven His prophecy was true.
(V. 22), "When therefore he was risen from the dead, **HIS DISCIPLES REMEMBERED** that he had said this unto them; and **THEY BELIEVED** the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."

- S **ONE REASON THE DISCIPLES BELIEVED** in Jesus is that Jesus' prophecy had come true just as He had prophesied. After His resurrection, **THEY KNEW** Jesus was truly all that He claimed to be. It was as if the resurrection was God's visible stamp of approval upon everything Jesus had ever said.

- S **A CAREFUL STUDY** of Jesus' life will serve the same evidence to each sincere seeker today. **Billy Graham** stated so accurately, "If Jesus is who He claimed to be, the most important thing any of us will ever do is get to know Him."

OVER THE YEARS VARIOUS FOLKS HAVE SUGGESTED that Jesus didn't really know He was going to die a horrible death in advance. How wrong folks of that persuasion are. Jesus gave **many indications** He knew in advance He was going to be crucified and be resurrected from the dead. The examples are many:

- 1) **(John 12:24),** "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except **A CORN** of

wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

- 2) **(John 1:29)**, "... Behold **THE LAMB OF GOD**, which taketh away the sin of the world."
 - 3) **(Mat 16:4)**, "... There shall no sign be given unto it, but **THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH**. . . ."
 - 4) **(John 3:14)**, "And as Moses lifted up **THE SERPENT** in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:"
 - 5) **(John 10:15)**, "... **I LAY DOWN MY LIFE** for the sheep."
 - 6) On three separate occasions Jesus told His disciples He was going to Jerusalem to be mocked and be crucified.
- S Jesus was **NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT** IN WHAT HE DID AND SAID THAT DAY IN THE TEMPLE, BUT HE **WAS ETERNALLY CORRECT**. What Jesus said that day was true for time and all eternity. Every man, woman, boy and girl in that temple that day should have bowed down and confessed Jesus as Lord.
- S Jesus' goal was not to save His own life, His goal was to seek and save the lives of others. Jesus had such confidence in His Father's plan that He was willing to lay down His life in order to carry it out.

WE, TOO, CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PLAN.

- **(2 Tim 1:12)**, "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."
- **(Phil 1:6)**, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"
- **(Mark 10:28-30)**, "Then **PETER** began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. {29} And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, {30} But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."
- **(John 11:9-10)**, "Jesus answered, Are there not **TWELVE HOURS** in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. {10} But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him."

JESUS' DISCIPLES CONTINUED TO **LEARN MORE** ABOUT JESUS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF HIS MINISTRY:

- I. JESUS HAD **ZEAL** FOR HIS **FATHER'S CHARACTER**
- II. JESUS HAD **CONFIDENCE** IN HIS **FATHER'S PLAN**

III. JESUS UNDERSTOOD THE NATURE OF THE HUMAN HEART

(V. 23-25), “Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the **MIRACLES** {signs} which he did. {24} But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, {25} And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”

S **(V. 24), “MANY BELIEVED.”**

- Jesus’ began His ministry with great outward **success**. Word about Jesus **spread** rapidly. **Large crowds** quickly gathered around Him. Jesus was **the talk** of the city. “MANY BELIEVED.”
- Based on this reality **ONE MIGHT THINK** Jesus would have been ecstatic. **JESUS WAS NOT ECSTATIC** because He knew the crowds were gathering due to external excitement, rather than internal commitment.

S **(V. 23), “MANY BELIEVED IN HIS NAME, WHEN THEY SAW THE MIRACLES WHICH HE DID. ”**

- The word for “**MIRACLES**” IS the Greek word “**SEMEION**.” It is the word for “**SIGN**.” **SCRIPTURE DOES NOT REVEAL WHAT “MIRACLE/SIGNS”** Jesus gave while in Jerusalem for the Passover, but He must have done many because “miracles” is plural. **NICODEMUS**, In John 3 says to Jesus, **(John 3:2)**, “. . . Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do **THESE MIRACLES** {semeion} that thou doest, except God be with him.”

S **(V. 23), “MANY BELIEVED IN HIS NAME, . . . ”**

- “**PISTEUO**” (pist-yoo'-o) is translated as “**BELIEVED**”
- THE SAME WORD IS USED IN THE NEXT VERSE **(V. 24)**, “But Jesus did not **COMMIT** (pist-yoo'-o) himself unto them, . . . ”
- The idea is that **the crowd “believed”** in Jesus, BUT **JESUS DID NOT BELIEVE** IN THE CROWD. Our verses tell us **WHY JESUS WAS NOT ECSTATIC**: **(V. 24-25)**, “. . . Because **HE KNEW** all men, {25} And needed not that any should testify of man: for **HE KNEW** what was in man.”
- The crowds had come because they liked miracles, not because they believed Jesus to be their **LORD AND SAVIOR**. As long as the miracles flowed like wine, Jesus could count on a crowd (John 2:1-11). But when Jesus started talking about total surrender and total commitment, they scattered like wild quail. Consider two examples:
 - 1) **JESUS FED THE FIVE THOUSAND** IN JOHN 6. The crowds were ecstatic until Jesus began talking about commitment. Consider their response to Jesus’ message on commitment.
 - **(John 6:60)**, “Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, ‘This is an hard saying; who can hear it?’”
 - **(John 6:66)**, “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”
 - 2) **THE RICH YOUNG RULER CAME AND KNEELED BEFORE JESUS**. He wanted to follow Jesus until Jesus started talking

about commitment.

- **(Mark 10:21-22)**, "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. {22} And he was sad at that saying, and **WENT AWAY** grieved: for he had great possessions."

S **(V. 23)**, "MANY BELIEVED IN HIS NAME, . . . "

- **THEY BELIEVED, BUT NOT REALLY - NOT IN THE BIBLICAL SENSE.** It is possible to believe in Jesus, but not really believe at all. Warren Wiersbe referred to the people in John 2 as "**UNSAVED BELIEVERS.**" They had belief, but not *saving belief*.
- LISTEN TO JESUS:
(Mat 7:21-23), "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

S LISTEN FOR THE WORD "KNEW"

(V. 24-25), "But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because HE **KNEW** all men, {25} And needed not that any should testify of man: for HE **KNEW** what was in man."

- Jesus knew fully what was in the human heart. He also knew what the Scripture had to say about the human heart:
(Jer 17:9), "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
- **JESUS UNDERSTOOD THE NATURE OF THE HUMAN HEART PERFECTLY. THE BOOK OF JOHN ILLUSTRATES JESUS' KNOWLEDGE OF THE HUMAN HEART:**
 - 1) JESUS SAID TO **PETER** before He had time to get to know him:
(John 1:42), "'You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called **CEPHAS**" (which is translated, **a stone**)."
 - 2) JESUS SAID TO **NATHANAEL** before He had time to get to know him:
(John 1:47), "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"
(John 1:48), "Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee."
 - 3) JESUS KNEW HOW MANY HUSBANDS **THE SAMARITAN WOMAN** HAD:
(John 4:18), "For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly."

4) JESUS KNEW **ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES** WOULD BETRAY HIM:

(John 6:70), "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

5) JESUS KNEW **THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES** DID NOT LOVE GOD:

(John 5:42), "But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you."

PUT ALL THAT INFORMATION TOGETHER AND WE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT GOD KNOWS US, TOO! We have **NO SECRET HIDING PLACES** in our hearts where we can keep things from God.

(1 Chr 28:9), ". . . The LORD **searcheth** all hearts, and **understandeth** all the imaginations of the thoughts: . . . "

FOR THE **INSINCERE & HYPOCRITICAL**, this reality is A **DISCOMFORTING THOUGHT**. FOR THE **SINCERE & COMMITTED** this is a comforting reality. God knows what you are going through. He knows everything about you. **HE KNOWS** your **hurts, tears, fears, cares, temptations, afflictions, hopes and perplexities**.

(Psa 56:8), "Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?"

THE CHORUS GOES

"I am loved, I am loved, I can risk loving you.

For the One who knows me best, loves me most."

LIKE THE DISCIPLES OF OLD, WE HAVE MADE **THREE DISCOVERIES** about Jesus:

- I. JESUS HAD **ZEAL** FOR HIS FATHER'S **HOUSE**
- II. JESUS HAD **CONFIDENCE** IN HIS FATHER'S **PLAN**
- III. JESUS **UNDERSTOOD** THE NATURE OF THE **HUMAN HEART**