JOHN 2:12-25

Review...

- John 1:1-51 It is all about the Word...
 - o Jesus the Word is God and became a man to live a perfect life then die for our sins!
 - John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus show men they needed to be clean
 - John knew Jesus was the Messiah the Lamb of God come to save the world from sin...
 - o Jesus met Philip in Galilee Philip told Nathaniel about Jesus but he did not believe...
 - So Philip told him to go and see Jesus for himself Jesus had seen him under a tree...
 - Then Nathaniel believed you are the Christ the King of Israel!
 - Greater things you will see heaven opened Jesus is the ladder to get to God!
- JOHN 2:1-12 THE WEDDING AT CANA...
 - o Jesus and the 6 disciples were invited to a wedding...
 - They ran out of wine Mary the mother of Jesus told him about the problem...
 - Mary told the servants whatever Jesus says do it!
 - o The servants filled up 6 large pots full of water and when they served it it was wine!
 - The master of the ceremony congratulated the bridegroom on the quality of the wine...
 - Unlike in the world the best had been saved for last!
 - o Jesus first miracle turning water into wine...
 - Jesus came to give us the New Covenant / the New Wine Luke 5:37-38...
 - The New Wine of Jesus is what allows us to enjoy the Wedding of the Lamb!

Going up to Jerusalem for the Passover... (4 things)

- 1st A family tradition... vs. 12-13
 - o Jesus went with his mother the 6 disciples and his brothers to Capernaum...
 - After only a few days there the time came to go to Jerusalem for the Passover...
 - The Law required every Jew to attend the Passover every year Exodus 23:14-17...
 - And Jesus and his family had attended every year since He was a little boy...
 - Luke 2:41 "His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover."
 - Parents take the time to establish good traditions / habits in the life of your kids...
 - Celebrate 'Resurrection Sunday' / Passover teaching your kids about the cross...
 - Encourage your children to be in the Word to daily read their Bible...
 - Not just Bible stories but let them dig into the Word they can handle it...
 - Encourage them to ask questions to investigate and explore their faith...
 - Not just hanging onto their parent's faith but let them get to know Jesus personally!
 - I know a lot of parents who let their kids be out all night at a disco...
 - But are hesitant even refuse to let their kids go to church hang out with the Lord...
 - Cherish the gifts that God has given to you your children watch over them...
 - Know where you children are keep them from things that will harm them...
 - But at the same time encourage them to seek after the Lord!
 - Every parent wants their children to be successful to have a fruitful life...
 - We give them the best education we possibly can teach them to work hard...

- But so often we miss the key ingredient teach them to abide in Jesus...
- The only way our kids will be successful fruitful in life is in Christ!
- When I was 18 my father took me aside and told me 'You are no longer my son'...
- I had been a tough teenager but never been disowned I wondered what I'd done...
- His point was I belonged to God now his job was done he had led me to Jesus!
- The greatest gift we can give to our kids is to make them God's kids!
- III John 1:4 -"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children live in the truth."

• 2ND - CLEANSING THE TEMPLE... VS. 14-17

- o There has been some confusion as to when this event occurred in Jesus' ministry...
 - According to Mark 11:15 / Luke 19:45 it happened at the end of Jesus" ministry...
 - Yet here in John it seems to occur at the VERY beginning of Jesus' ministry...
 - The answer is that Jesus 'cleansed the Temple' on two different occasions...
 - They did not learn the lesson the 1st time Jesus repeated it at the end of His ministry!
 - The difference was at the end there was also a warning given to Israel...
 - Just before going into a Temple he cursed a fig tree the nation of Israel...
 - Mark 11:14 "Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again..."
 - Israel should have been bearing good fruit for the Kingdom of God...
 - Because they missed Jesus apart from Jesus they would never bear fruit...
 - God will repeat a lesson if we do not learn the first time around...
 - But there is a danger of hardening our heart towards the truth...
 - That does not mean God does not keep fighting for us but there will come a point...
 - Hebrews 3:15 "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..."
 - If we continually choose be hard headed refusing to obey the Lord...
 - God will give us what we want we will have a life that bears no fruit for God
- o The Temple the Jewish religion had become a moneymaking industry...
 - One that took advantage of the poor and those who were seeking to know God...
 - Jesus made a whip and drove out those selling doves and animals for sacrifice...
 - Even if you brought your own sacrifice it had to be perfect...
 - The priests would always find a flaw so you had to buy one of theirs...
 - Of course the cost of their pre-approved animals was double or triple the going rate!
 - The dove a poor man's sacrifice for those who could not afford a lamb...
 - Even those who sold the doves charged exuberant prices robbing the poor...
 - He poured out the money and overturned the tables of the money exchangers...
 - All Jews were required to pay the Temple tax **Matthew 17:24**
 - The tax and all animal purchases had to be paid with a 'Sanctuary Shekel'...
 - The exchange rate for which was comparable to extortion!
- o The disciples remembered what was written 'the zeal for Your house has eaten me up...'
 - The Temple was supposed to be a place where you could meet with God Prayer
 - Instead they made it a 'house of merchandise' a way to make money off of others
 - And it frankly made Jesus ANGRY they were keeping men from God!
 - Jesus got angry but never sinned so you can be angry but not sin...
 - **Ephesians 4:26** "Be angry, and do not sin..."
 - There are times when we as believers in Jesus we should be angry...

- Angry when evil is presented by the world as good / and good as evil!
 - Isaiah 5:20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil..."
 - When you see movies depict 'living together' as an acceptable lifestyle...
 - When you see adds that make it look 'cool' to be drunk...
 - Not angry at sinners they need our help but angry at sin...
 - We need to speak out we need to take action because it destroys lives...
- Angry when people market Jesus as a way to make money...
 - I cannot help but think of 'Christian bookstores' marketing 'Christianity'...
 - We have Jesus T-Shirts / Jesus bracelets / and countless books about Jesus...
 - Many men have made fortunes marketing Jesus as if He was some famous actor!
 - Or those who 'have concerts' in order to 'raise funds' for God...
 - It undermines the creditability of the Gospel message...
 - People get the idea that Jesus is just another scam a way to make money...
- Angry when churches only talk about money...
 - Churches are to be a place where people come to learn about the Lord...
 - Instead people are taught about a God who only wants their money...
 - God does not want or need our money He is the creator of Heaven and Earth!
 - His church should be a place of prayer where men can come to know God!
 - I fear if Jesus walked into many churches today He would overturn a lot of tables!

• 3rd - **S**eeking a sign... vs. 18-22

- o The Jews responded to Jesus cleansing 'Show us sign...'
 - They were not happy Jesus had made a mess of the Temple...
 - They wanted Him to prove his authority prove He was the Messiah...
 - It was a valid request because at this point Jesus had only done one miracle...
 - But not matter how many signs Jesus would show them they would not believe...
 - We might think that if only we (or someone we know) could see a miracle see Jesus...
 - That would be all that was needed in order to really believe in Jesus...
 - But theses men saw Jesus saw a deaf and blind man healed it was not enough...
 - What is necessary is the message of the Gospel the Cross of Jesus...
 - People do not need to see miracles they need to hear the Gospel!
 - Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
- o Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up...
 - The people all assumed He was referring to Herod's 2nd Temple...
 - It was a statement that would stay with Jesus throughout His ministry...
 - In fact they would use this as at accusation again Him at His trial Mark 14:58
 - And even taunted Him with the words while on the cross Matthew 27:40
 - They scoffed in disbelief it had taken 46 years to complete the Temple...
 - In fact at the time of Jesus the Temple was still not completely finished...
 - The thought of rebuilding it in just 3 days was absolutely ridiculous!
 - But Jesus was not talking about the Temple He was talking about His body...
 - He was talking about the cross and the resurrection!
 - The proof of Jesus authority was the reason why He came to die for our sin!

- Jesus dying on the cross is not the Gospel message every man dies...
- It was Jesus death and resurrection that is the Good News...
- He showed us that there life after death the grave is not the end...
- Everyone will live forever the question is where will we spend eternity...
- Jesus paid the price for our sin so that we could live with God forever in heaven!
- When Jesus was resurrected His disciples remembered these words...
 - Because they had heard the Word of God in time they remembered the Word...
 - As a result they believed the Bible and the Words Jesus had said...
 - Often when we read our Bibles we might think that we do not understand...
 - Yet the Lord can brings things back to our memory later one make them clear...
 - The key is to be in the Word so that we have something to remember!
 - **John 14:26** "The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

• 4^{TH} - Not putting trust in Men... vs. 23-25

- o There were many at the Passover who believed Jesus was the Messiah...
 - They believed because they saw the 'many signs' that Jesus did...
 - But Jesus did not put His trust in them He knew what was in men...
 - One day they would cry out Hosanna the next day the would say crucify...
- o If we put our trust in men we are sure to be disappointed...
 - Men often do what others do because everyone else is doing the same thing...
 - They rarely stop to ask the question whom am I following where are we going...
 - Matthew 15:14 "If the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."
 - So follow the crowd often means being led the wrong way...
 - Matthew 7:13 "For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it."
 - Those who are going with the flow doing what everyone else does broad path...
 - It might be the easier road to walk down but the end of it is destruction...
 - Better to not put your trust in men instead depend on Jesus...
 - Following Jesus means that you do not 'go with the flow' you stand out...
 - **Matthew 7:14** "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."
 - If no one else goes to church if no one else wants to do what is right...
 - Are we still willing to follow Christ stand up for the truth...
 - Do not worry about what others say about you whisper behind your back...
 - What is more important is that we have the approval of Jesus!