

JOHN 2:12-25

REVIEW...

- **JOHN 1:1-51 - IT IS ALL ABOUT THE WORD...**
 - 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...
 - 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...**
 - 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!
 - 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!
 - 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**
 - 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

- 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 to 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
- 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!
- 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 ads 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 - SEEKING 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."
- **4TH - NOT PUTTING TRUST IN MEN... VS. 23-25**
 - 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...
 - 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!