

# THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

## CHAPTER 2:12-25

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-364 FEBRUARY 20, 2000

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“Worship - The Zeal of Approval ”**

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

**John 1:12**

**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

***Worship, Zeal, His House***

**INTRODUCTION**

***To The Text John 2:12-25***

### **The Worship of God**

Is a natural result of being Born Again by the Holy Spirit

### **Worship**

Involves our total person and our complete attention

### **Worship**

Can take on many manifestations

John 4:23-24

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

# Worship - The Zeal of Approval

## **1.) *Authentic Worship Restores The Soul* vv. 12-16**

After this He went down to **Capernaum**, He, His **mother**, His **brothers**, and His **disciples**; and they did not stay there many days. **13** Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem **14** And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. **15** When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. **16** And He said to those who sold doves, **"Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"**

## Israel and Her Faith Had Fallen Far From God

**Their Worship - A Chore, The Scriptures - Dull,  
And The Temple - An Icon**

Worship and Scripture Reading is Our Private Devotions  
But The Outward Display of Religion Rarely Goes Away

Matthew 15:7-9

...Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "

2 Timothy 3:5

having a form of godliness but denying its power.  
And from such people turn away!

**The Excitement for God  
and The Joy of Knowing the LORD**  
had Slipped from Israel's Awareness

When Zeal and Passion for God is Gone  
The Religious, Human Nature of Man Slowly Takes Over

## **Formality, Sterility and Legality**

**Seep In Until You Have No More Vitality  
and Energy and Joy for God**

**a.) Jesus Invested Himself in Fellowship**

**vs.12-13**

After this He went down to **Capernaum**, He, His **mother**, His **brothers**, and His **disciples**; and they did not stay there many days. **13** Now the **Passover** of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to **Jerusalem**.

### **Verse 12**

After this He went down to **Capernaum**, He, His **mother**, His **brothers**, and His **disciples**

### **Verse 13**

Now the **Passover** of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to **Jerusalem**.

### **The Passover**

Every Jewish Man was required to attend at least three  
(3) annual feasts at Jerusalem

The Feast of Tabernacles / The Feast of Pentecost / The Feast of Passover

**Jesus Never Once Catered to the Man-Made Traditions and Laws of the Scribes and Pharisees But He was always careful to fulfill the Feasts of the Lord**

## **Worship - The Zeal of Approval**

And He **found** in the temple those who sold **oxen** and **sheep** and **doves**, and the **moneychangers** doing business. **15** When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables

**The Temple Priests and Servants  
Had Become the Masters. Polluted By The Desire to be in Authority  
and to be Rich**

The Church at Laodicea

**Revelation 3:17**

"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—You don't even know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked..."

**Verse 14**

"And He **found** in the temple..."

**Visitors and Travelers**

They Had to Sell "Oxen", "Sheep" and "Doves"  
They Had to Have the "Moneychangers"

**The Problem Was With  
The Location of What They Were Doing**

**A c c o r d i n g t o J o s e p h u s**

**This marketeering Took Place In The Court of the Gentiles - The Place Where the  
Jews Were to Evangelize the Gentiles**

**What if a Church today did the same !!!**

**Worship - The Zeal of the Lord**

And He said to those who sold doves, **"Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"**

**"My Father's house"**

This Announcement was an Announcement  
Equal to declaring War

**By Saying "My Father's House"  
He Instantly Declared That Him and His Father Were One**

According to the Hebrew Mind, In Judaism Jesus was Claiming without doubt that He was of Divine Origins  
(thus the reaction in verse 18)

**In Matthews Account**

Matthew 21:10-15

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"  
11 So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." 12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, **"It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"** 14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant

Mark 11:15-17

15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; 16 And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. 17 And he taught, saying unto them, **Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

This Holy Zeal

Was due to the fact that Jesus knew exactly why the temple was there in the first place.  
The People were to worship God there but it was discovered that money could be  
made by taking advantage of people

So Jesus Overturned It All

## Worship - The Zeal of Approval

### 2.) *Conscious Worship Tests the Heart*

vv. 17-22

17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "**The Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.**" 18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**" 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days? 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

### a.) *He Evoked His Disciples to the Word*

vs. 17

Then His disciples remembered that it was written,  
"**The Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up**"

#### The Passage was from Psalm 69:9

Psalm 69:9

Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

**Zeal** grk 2205 zelos (dzay'-los);

Heat, fervency of mind, indignation, righteous jealousy.  
A holy passion

# His Words and Actions

Instantly Reminded Them of Their Old Testament Scriptures

You Can Almost Hear Philip Say  
“I Told You We Found The Messiah”  
As Nathanael Mumbles “Wow - Ps 69:9”

**THIS WAS JESUS DECLARING WAR  
ON THE HYPOCRISY OF THE RELIGIOUS**

**b.) He Provoked The Pharisees to Choose vs. 18-19**

So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up** Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "**The Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.**"

"What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?"

## They Indicted Themselves

When They Asked for a Sign That Supported His Actions  
They Were Acknowledging His Claim

**“My Father’s House”**

**The Jesus Style of Worship  
Should cause people to either rejoice in His name  
and follow him in humble obedience**

Or

**The Unbelieving Soul would have to run out of the *Building with Their Fingers in their Ears in Hatred of Jesus Christ***

**Acts 7:55-58**

And Stephen, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

**He Was Speaking in “Resurrection Language”**

**Luke 11:29**

And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, "This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except **the sign of Jonah the prophet.**

? What Evidence can you Produce  
to convince us of your actions ?

? What's Your Justification ?

**“Destroy this temple,  
and in three days I will raise it up”**

The Resurrection  
Of Jesus Christ Alone is The Greatest Sign

To Destroy The Temple Would Be To Destroy God's  
Dwelling Place And to the Jew this was an impossibility –  
God would never allow it



# Here, Jesus Was Propheying the Beginning of the End To the Old Testament Economy of Worship

**In John 1:29**

Jesus Was The New Sacrifice

**In John 2:19**

Jesus is The New Temple

Acts 1:3

He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs...

**c.) *He Foretold Them of His Life***

**vs. 20-22**

Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days? 21 {But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.}

**My Friend, Jesus Demands that you consider His Cross and His resurrection**

**YOU MUST EXAMINE THE FACTS**

**Worship - The Zeal of Approval**

**3.) *Transforming Worship Creates a New Man* vv. 23-25**

**23** Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many **believed** in His name when they saw the signs which He did. **24** But Jesus did not **commit** Himself to them, because He knew all men, **25** and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

**a.) Being Careful How We Worship**

**v. 23**

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many **believed** in His name when they saw the signs which He did.

many **believed**... when they saw the **signs**...

The Signs Were to be Only Indicators or Vehicles  
To transport you to the Sign Doing, The Creator of the Signs

## Imagine Having A Picture

*of Your Children in Your Hand And Talking to a Picture - While your Children are Standing Next to You*

John 6:2

Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.

5,000 people were fed and they wanted to make Him their king  
Until He preached the message of commitment...  
Then they left Him in droves !!!

John 6:26

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

## Make No Mistake About It

Jesus was Preaching and Teaching While Performing Miraculous Signs

Because the signs were to challenge the unbeliever -  
to believe in the Message that was being Given

John 6:29

"This is the work of God, that you **believe** in Christ  
whom God hath sent."

**Believed** grk 4100 pisteuo (pist-yoo'-o)

to put faith in, to have honor towards a person or thing

**signs** grk 4592 semeion (say-mi'-on)

a wonder, token, miracle of supernatural origins

## Can You Be Saved By Believing In Signs & Miracles?

*You're Saved Only By Believing in Jesus Christ!*

John 14:8-11

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

**b.) He Knows What We Believe vv. 24-25**

But Jesus did not **commit** Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should **testify** of man, for He knew what was in man.

# They Were “Unsaved Believers”

They Believed That The Signs Were of Divine Origins and That They Enjoyed Them...

**Commit** grk 4100 pisteuo (pist-yoo'-o)

to put faith in, to have honor towards a person or thing

Jesus, Being God Incarnate Knew what was in  
the heart and mind of every man

Psalm 139:1-4

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

**testify** grk 3140 martureo (mar-too-reh'-o)

to give an endorsement, to be a witness, to bear record of with an intent to convince as in a court room argument

Psalm 94:11

The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile.

## APPLICATION POINT

If He knows all my thoughts then  
I should walk in this life being Aware That Nothing  
is Hidden from Him

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Matthew 13:18-23

"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. 20 "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

## Faithless Faith is Putting Faith in Faith

John 4:48

Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

## Faith in Jesus Christ *is True Faith*

People Who Want His Works  
Without Wanting His Word Are Lost Believers without  
Faith in Him

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

# The Faith Lesson is

**#1**

**That Jesus was Determined to Confront Hypocrisy**

*Am I Willing to Confront the Hypocrisy of my World ?*

**#2**

**That Jesus was Committed to Defend what was of God**

*Am I really being the salt and light that others need to see ?*

**#3**

**That Jesus was Deliberate about His Message of Atonement**

*Am I willing to challenge the World to Believe in Jesus Christ ?*

THE END