

The Need to Believe **John 2:12-25**

John has taken us from the eternal past in the prologue to the public proclamation of John the Baptist of the person of Jesus the Messiah- the Lamb of God. John the Apostle has moved us from John the Baptist's disciples 1:35 to Jesus and his disciples 2:11 who after watching the miracle of water into wine believe in Him. This theme of believing in Him is now expanded and explained.

- I. The Story 2:12-21
 - A. The Problem with the Place of the Story
The synoptic gospels have this story at the end of the ministry of Jesus. Liberals claim that this is evidence of an error in the bible. We would simply say that there are two events with similar outcomes. Matt 21:12
 - B. The Place of the of the Story :12-13
 - C. The Predicament of the Story :14-17
 1. The Culture
Provisions for temple offerings
 2. The Corruption (Psalm 69:9, Jo.2:17)
Profiteers and predators for self serving religion
 - D. The Proof of Authority :18-21
 1. The Confrontation :18
 2. The Counter :19
 3. The Confusion :20
 4. The Clarification :21 (The final sign: resurrection 20:30-31)
- II. The Shift 2:22
Theme of Believing 2:11, 1:50, 1:12, 1:7.....3:16, 6:47

III. The Significance of the Story 2:23-25

A. The Question

Are these believers?

B. The Answers

-No- Not real believers

(Judas, Demon faith James 2, false faith Simon Magus Acts 8)

-Yes- Real believers

C. The Reason

* Believers develop and deepen faith (Disciples 2:11–Signs- 2:22)

* They “believed in His name” 1:12, 2:23 20:31

* The Signs validated the claim of Jesus to aid in faith 7:30-31, 20:31, 2:11

* Jesus did not entrust Himself to them (Believe in them)

*Untrustworthy believers Joseph of Arimathea- secret disciple of Jesus 19:38

*People who Believe in Jesus but who are afraid of man. 12:42

*(Modern day Christians in Pakistan, Iran)

Faith in Christ does depend on evidence. Evidence demands a verdict!

Some see and need more evidence.

“Blessed are those who believes and has not see”. 20:29!

Faith is dynamic. It is like kids: all have life but growth is different!

PAT

Some days in certain situations it is easier to believe in Jesus.

Some days are hard

That is why it is called, a “faith walk”!

(See Job 1 and Hebrews 11 for an example of a bad day!)

How is your day? How are you walking?

“Belief Determines Behavior”