

Pt 13 Jesus Knows What Is In Man – John 2:23-25

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

John 2:23-25

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.

In these last 3 verses of John chapter 2, we find something very important. Of course, we as believers, understand that Jesus sees all and knows all – He's omniscient. But these verses also show us some other important aspects of Jesus and of those who profess to believe in Him.

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.

We talked last time about what Passover meant. It was one of the 7 important feast days for the Jews. Passover represents when God sent the death angel over all the land of Egypt and smote the firstborn of anyone that didn't have the blood of the sacrificial lamb applied to their door posts. For context sake, let's read it.

Exodus 12:1-32

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months: it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth *day* of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of *their* fathers, a lamb for an house:

4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take *it* according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats:

6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.

9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast *with* fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

11 And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it *is* the LORD'S passover.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.

14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day

until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

16 And in the first day *there shall be* an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save *that* which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

17 And ye shall observe *the feast of* unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

18 In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

19 Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

20 Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread.

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.

22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that *is* in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite *you*.

24 And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever.

25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.

26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service?

27 That ye shall say, It *is* the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

28 And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.

29 And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that *was* in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for *there was* not a house where *there was* not one dead.

31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, *and* get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said.

32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also.

There are 18-more verses in Exodus 12 which details the aftermath of this and the institution of the Passover feast, but let's get back to John 2

John 2:23b.... many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

This is where things get interesting. It says "many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did." They didn't believe in him because of his Word, they only believed what they saw. This shows us that this belief was superficial. In other words, it wasn't a belief of faith in Christ, they were only caught up in the moment of the miracles. The Bible says in **Jeremiah 17:9** *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

I personally believe the majority of people today who claim they are saved, were really just caught up in the moment. It was an emotional profession of faith and they never truly placed their faith in the Lord Jesus.

This happens a lot in these so-called "youth revivals." They get together in a building to watch a service that has been intentionally constructed to play on the emotions of those watching. They set the mood with music and lights. Don't ever dispel the power of music and lights. Those are the first things someone will use to manipulate others.

We must turn to God's Word to see what true faith is: **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Did you notice where faith comes from? It does not say Faith "cometh by listening to music." It did not say Faith "cometh by flashing lights." It does not say Faith "cometh by an emotional charge." No, it says Faith "cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

No doubt you have seen in the news and on social media the so-called "revival" at Asbury college that lasted 2-weeks. Many of my friends on Facebook were ecstatic over it and got caught up in the excitement. I'll make more enemies by saying this but God is not in a service that is led by gays and women preachers. Over 60,000 people flocked to Kentucky to experience this so-called "revival." I'm afraid many of them are no different than those we are reading about here in John 2:23 that "believed" because of the miracles.

How do we know the people in John 2:23 were only caught up in the moment and didn't truly have genuine faith in Jesus Christ? Simple, look at our next two verses:

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.

Did you see that? "But Jesus did not commit himself unto them" Why would he not commit himself to them if they truly believed in him? As it says at the end of the verse: "because he knew all men."

What does that mean? Let's look back at Jeremiah 17 again in the next verse which tells us the heart is deceitful above all things: **Jeremiah 17:10** I the LORD search the heart, / I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jesus knows our true hearts, our true thoughts, our true beliefs. He knows if we are truly committed to Him or only pretending or in a temporary state of euphoria.

In **John chapter 8** we read about the time when Jesus was teaching in the temple and they brought the woman caught in adultery to him. After he forgave her and continued teaching, the Bible tells us in **Joh 8:30** As he spake these words, many believed on him.

But, then in the very next verses it says this: **John 8:31-32** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The Bible also tells us in **Revelation 2:23b** ...I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

This should get all of our attention knowing that the Lord sees all and knows all. Listen to what it says in **1 Chronicles 28:9** And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the

LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

The Bible says in **Proverbs 17:3** The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

Not all who professed to believe in him because of the miracles actually placed their faith in him as Savior. Some may have and that would become evident as time went on; however, the majority only had superficial faith and it would soon leave and they would be with the crowd on his crucifixion day yelling out "crucify him."

How many people do you know who once seemed they were believers but now do not seem to be so? We, of course, are unable to search their hearts and know the truth, but tell us those who are his disciples will continue in his word.

There will be a day of separation of those who believe and those who do not believe. **Matthew 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.

We will all stand before a righteous judge one day. It is then we will know for certain those who are true believers and those who merely made a confession of faith because they were caught up in the moment.