

***“He Knoweth Our Frame”***  
***John 2:18-25***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn In Our Bibles This Morning:
  - Back To John 2:
    - Where - After Our Lord Jesus
      - Performed His First Miracle:
        - In The Small Town Of Cana Of Galilee:
    - He And His Small Band Of Disciples:
      - Headed To The Big City Of Jerusalem:
        - For The Passover Feast!
          - Where - He Fully Commenced:
            - His Public Ministry!
  - And - The First Act He Did:
    - Was To Cleanse His Father's House - The Jewish Temple:
      - Of All Those Who Had Made It Into:
        - A "House Of Merchandise!"
      - Instead Of Maintaining Its Use:
        - As A "House Of Prayer For All People!" (Isaiah 56:7)
  - And - As His Disciples:
    - Witnessed What Was Unfolding Before Their Eyes:
      - John Tells Us In 2:17 - That:
        - "His disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up!"
          - And - They Were Impressed!
2. But - Not Everyone At The Temple That Day:
  - Was Impressed!
    - There Were Some Jews There - Who Likely Held:
      - Some Position Of Authority:
        - And Had Some Vested Interest:
          - In The Buying & Selling Going On There!
  - And - They Were Horrified!
    - Who Did This Man Think He Was:
      - To Do This?
        - And So - In The Verses We Come To Next:
          - John Records Their Response!
  - So - Let's Read Together:
    - 2:18-25 - "Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? / Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. / Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? / But he spake of the temple of his body. / When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. / 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. / But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all [men], / And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man!"
3. Already - At The Onset Of Jesus' Public Ministry:
  - Not Only Do We Find:
    - A Reference To Jesus' Death And Resurrection:
      - We Also Find The Kinds Of People:
        - Jesus Will Face:
          - All Throughout His Days On This Earth!
            - And Even To This Day!
  - We Find Three Different Groups Of People:
    - Represented - Each:
      - With A Different Kind Of Faith!
    - There Were Those:
      - With No Faith!
        - Who Questioned Jesus' Authority To Do What He Did In The Temple!
    - There Were Those:

- With Nominal Faith:
  - Who Believed In Jesus, But Only Because Of The Miracles he Did! And:
- There Were Those:
  - With Nurtured Faith:
    - Who Not Only Believed In Jesus, But Followed Jesus From Their Heart!
- And - Jesus - In His Wisdom:
  - Treated Each Group:
    - Differently - According To Their Faith - And:
    - Their Reception Of Him!
- 4. And - Jesus Could Do This:
  - Because - Jesus Knew The Hearts:
    - Of Every Single Person:
      - He Came Into Contact With!
  - At The End Of These Verses:
    - In 2:24b-25 - John Tells Us That:
      - “He Knew All Men! And Needed Not That Any Should Testify Of Man: For He Knew What Was In Man!”
        - What A Remarkable Statement!
        - And What A Significant Claim!
  - In Addition To:
    - All Of The Other Claims - Already Made:
      - About Jesus - Here Is Another One:
        - About The Knowledge Of Jesus!
    - “He Knew All Men!”
      - Not Like You Might Know Someone!
        - Based On What They Say & What They Do! Based On External Things!
    - Jesus “Knew” And “Knows” All Men:
      - Based On Who They Are!
        - “For He Knew What Was In Man!”
  - Remember Back In 1 Samuel 16:7:
    - When The Prophet Samuel Was Sent On A Mission To Select Who Would Be The Next King Of Israel?
      - When Samuel Was Impressed:
        - By The Stature And Strength Of The Oldest Of Jesse’s Sons!
    - The Lord Told Him - “Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for [the LORD seeth] not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!”
- 5. So Here - John Is Making A Further Claim:
  - That Jesus Was Omniscient!
    - Jesus Was All-Knowing - In His Divine Nature!
      - And Thus, He Was Able To Peer Into The Deepest & Darkest Recesses Of Our Hearts!
      - And Then - Jesus Would:
        - Deal With Men As He Saw Alone Could See Them!

\* And - The First Group Of Men He Saw - Were Men:

**1. Of No Faith!**

- This Was The Group Of Jews:
  - That We First Meet - In 2:18 - Who:
    - When Jesus Cleansed The Temple:
      - Immediately Started Questioning Him!
  - “Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?”
- Though They Witnessed His Activity:
  - They Questioned His Authority!
    - Perhaps These Jews Sensed Some Messianic Overtones In What Jesus Had Just Done!
      - Some Believe The Prophecy Of Malachi 3:1-3 Was Fulfilled By Jesus:
        - When He Came Suddenly Into His Temple & Appeared As “A Refiner’s Fire & Like Fuller’s Soup!”
  - If These Jews Had This Prophecy In Mind:

- They Wanted To Know The Basis Of His Actions:
  - And So - They Asked Him / Demanded From Him:
    - “A Sign!”
  - And - They Would Not Believe:
    - Without A Sign! Also:
- Though They Witnessed His Ability:
  - They Further Questioned His Approval!
    - When Jesus Cleared Out The Temple:
      - With Just His Words And A “Scourge Of Small Chords!” (2:15)
        - He Had Done Something That Noone Else Could Have Done!
    - There Was A Moral Strength & Courage:
      - In Jesus - That Caused Everyone Who Was In The Wrong:
        - To Scatter!
  - But - Instead Of Acknowledging The Legitimacy:
    - Of Jesus’ Actions - Actions:
      - They Should Have Been Doing Themselves!
    - They Wanted To Know:
      - Who Approved Of What He Had Done?
        - They Certainly Hadn’t!
          - And - If God Had - He Could Give Them A Sign!
  - Again - They Would Not Believe:
    - Without A Sign! Also:
- Though They Witnessed His Ambition:
  - And “Zeal” For His Father’s House!
    - They Further Questioned His Association:
      - With God Himself!
    - Who Did This Man Think He Was?
      - To Call This Temple:
        - His Own “Father’s House!”
    - So - They Would Not Believe:
      - In His Authority / Approval / Association:
        - With God - Without A Sign!
          - Later - Jesus Would Address This In John 4:48 - Where He Says:
            - “Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe!”
  - Well - Remember - Jesus “Knew All Men!”
    - And - Jesus “Knew What Was In Man!”
      - Jesus Knew That These Men:
        - Had No Faith! And So:
          - He Dealt With Them:
            - According To Their Hearts!
      - Instead Of Immediately Complying:
        - With Their Wish - He Challenges Their Lack Of Faith:
          - With A Sign! A Sign Of:
            - His Own Death & Resurrection!
      - He Told Them:
        - 2:19 - “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up!”
          - Now - Everyone There - **But** Jesus:
            - Thought He Was Talking About The Physical Temple Standing Right There!
              - Even His Own Disciples Thought This!
        - But - Even Though:
          - In 2:21 - John Gives Us A “Spoiler!”
            - That - “He Spake Of The Temple Of His Body!”
              - At This Point - Noone **But** Jesus:
                - Thought **Of** Jesus When He Said This!
          - But - He Posed This As A Challenge:
            - To Their Faith!
              - If They Wanted A Sign So Badly:
                - They Would Have To Act Upon It! And Even “Destroy This Temple!”  
(Imperative)

- Jesus Gave Them A Sign!
  - But - They Didn't Really Want A Sign!
    - Because They Were In No Way Willing To Test / Try His Suggestion!
- They Had No Faith:
  - In The Authenticity:
    - Of The Sign Jesus Had Just Shown To Them! And So They Questioned Him:
      - 2:20 - "Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt *thou* rear it up in three days?"
  - Will *You* Do This? Could *You* Do This?
    - They Believed The Answer Was:
      - No! And So Jesus:
        - Gave Them No More Signs!
- Is This The Kind Of Heart:
  - You Possess? Even With:
    - A Stubborn Faith - That Will Not Believe:
      - "Except Ye Signs And Wonders?"
        - There Are Many Like This Even Today!
  - The Lord Jesus Has Already:
    - Given Us - Many "Signs And Wonders!"
      - And - They Are Recorded For Us:
        - In His Word - By Eyewitnesses!
    - If You Find Your Heart To Be Hard:
      - Like These Men Of No Faith:
        - Repent From That Hardness:
          - And Turn To Jesus Who Fulfilled This Very Sign:
            - In His Own Temple! His Body! But:

\* Also In These Verses - We Find Another Group Of Men - Who Were Men:

## 2. ***Of Nominal Faith!***

- This Is The Group Of Jews:
  - We Find In 2:23 - Who Saw Jesus:
    - Perform Miracles - On The Day Of The Passover Feast!
      - "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!"
  - Now - This Is A Remarkable Verse:
    - Because - We Are Told That:
      - "Many Believed In His Name!"
        - Not Just A Few - But Many!
  - And - We Are Told That They Believed:
    - In The Way That John Himself:
      - Wants His Readers To Believe!
        - 20:31 - "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name!"
    - And - What Happens To Those Who Do Believe?
      - In 1:12 - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name!"
  - So - At First - It Appears That This Group:
    - Has A Genuine Faith In Jesus!
      - They Believed In & Trusted In:
        - His Name!
    - But - In The Very Next Verse:
      - John Tells Us - 2:24 - "But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all [men]!"
    - There's An Interesting Play On Words Here!
      - "Commit" Is The Same Word As "Believe" In 2:23!
        - As If John Is Saying - Even Though Many Believed In Jesus, Jesus Could Not Believe In Them! Even Though Many Trusted In Jesus, Jesus Could Not Entrust Himself To Them!
  - What Does This Mean?

- Once Again - Jesus Knew The Hearts:
  - Of These Men - And That Their Faith In Him:
    - Was A Weak Faith Or A Shallow Faith At Best!
- After All - What Was Their Faith In Him:
  - Based On? Primarily:
    - John Tells Us - "When They Saw The Miracles Which He Did!"
- So - Once Again:
  - In His Great Wisdom:
    - Jesus Checked Their Faith:
      - I Believe - Out Of Compassion And Grace To Them!
- You See - If Jesus Had Entrusted & Committed Himself:
  - To Them - In All Of His Capacity:
    - As The Messiah:
      - It Might Have Caused Their Weakened Faith:
        - To Fail & To Fall!
  - **IE:** Like A Baby - You Don't Give Meat To Eat At First - But Mother's Milk! Otherwise, They Could Choke And Die!
    - Jesus Knew That They Needed:
      - More - So That Their Faith Would Increase!
- He Knew That There Needed To Be:
  - More Truth:
    - Upon Which Their Faith Could Rest!
      - It's Not Sign's & Miracles That Increase Faith!
        - Its God's Word!
          - Romans 10:17 - "So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!"
    - He Knew They Also Needed:
      - More Testing:
        - The Soil Of Their Hearts Was Very Much Like:
          - The Stony Ground In Jesus' Parable Of The Sower:
            - Mark 4:16-17 - "Who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; / And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended!"
        - Though The Roots Of Their Faith:
          - Were Shallow - Through The Tender Care Of Christ:
            - Their Hearts Could Be Cultivated And Transformed Into Good Soil:
              - For Those Roots To Go Deep!
        - He Knew They Also Needed:
          - More Training:
            - And That Is Why:
              - Jesus Did Not "Commit" Himself To Them:
                - Right Then & Right There!
            - Instead - He Continued His Ministry:
              - For Three Years - So That Over Time:
                - Their Faith In Him Could Grow:
                  - Deeper & Stronger & Wider & Greener!
- Perhaps This Is The Kind Of Heart:
  - You Possess! Even:
    - A Shallow Faith - That - Though Real:
      - Is Still Very Weak!
  - Remember That The Lord:
    - "Knows All Men" - Including You & Your Heart!
      - And - Psalm 103:14 - "He Knoweth Our Frame; He Remembereth That We Are Dust!"
  - Even As Christ Is Patient With Us:
    - You Need To Be Patient:
      - With The Work He Is Doing In Your Heart & In Your Life!
    - Though He Has Committed Himself To You:
      - By Living / Dying / Rising Again For You:
        - You Still Have So Much More Room To Grow In Your Faith!



- Especially To - In 2:22:
  - “The Scripture” And “The Word Which Jesus Had Said!”
    - Essentially - Equating The Two!
      - Jesus’ Words Were God’s Word!
        - And God’s Word:
          - Is Truth!
- They Learned:
  - From The Completion Of This Sign:
    - That All That Jesus Said:
      - Was & Is So!
- In A World:
  - Where Truth Has Become Relative:
    - Those With A Faith-Filled Heart:
      - Will Be More & More Committed To The Truth:
        - Of God’s Word!
  - But - There Will Also Be:
- A Commitment To Trust!
  - Jesus’ Disciples Didn’t Just:
    - Listen To Jesus:
      - To Satisfy Their Curiosity!
        - They Listened To Believe!
  - 2:22 - “When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they *believed* the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said!”
    - When You Truly Believe In:
      - The Words *Of* Jesus:
        - Like These Disciples:
          - You Will Believe In:
            - The Words *About* Jesus!
  - So Often - The Reason Why:
    - People Don’t Believe In:
      - The Truth Of The Old Testament:
        - Is Because They Really Don’t Believe In:
          - The Truth Of The New Testament - And:
            - Jesus’ Words!
    - But - They Are All Truth!
      - And Require Our Trust!
    - Is This The Kind Of Heart:
      - You Possess! Even With:
        - A Strong Faith - That Rests:
          - Completely Upon The Word Of God:
            - And - The Work Of Christ!
      - This Kind Of Heart:
        - Is Like The Good Soil:
          - In Jesus’ Parable Of The Sower & The Seed!
        - Mark 4:20 - “And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive [it], and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred!”
          - Jesus Commends:
            - This Kind Of Heart & This Kind Of Faith!
      - Are You Teachable?
        - Are You Committed To The Truth?
          - Are You Willing To Trust:
            - That Whatever The Lord Says:
              - Is So? No Matter Who Or What Anyone Else Might Say?
      - Keep Following Christ:
        - In This Way!

## Conclusion:

1. What Group Would You Have Been In:
  - If You Were At The Temple:

- In Those Days?
  - You Can Tell:
    - By Considering The Soil Of Your Own Heart!
- But - Don't Do This On Your Own!
  - Pray & Plea To The Lord:
    - "Search Me, O God, And Know My Heart: Try Me, And Know My Thoughts!"
- 2. Is Your Heart:
  - A Stubborn Heart?
    - Full Of No Faith?
      - Always Questioning:
        - The Word & Work Of The Lord?
  - If So - Repent - And See That:
    - The Sign Jesus Gave Then:
      - He Actually Fulfilled!
        - To Save You From Your Sinful & Stubborn Heart!
- 3. Is Your Heart:
  - A Shallow Heart?
    - Full Of A Nominal & A Weak Faith?
      - Do "The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful!" (Mark 4:19)
  - If So - Ask Jesus To Help You:
    - Follow Him! And:
      - Commit Yourself To:
        - The Daily Means Of Growth & Grace!
        - His Word, Prayer, Church!
    - If Your Faith Is Weak:
      - Then - You Need To Follow The Lord:
        - As Close As You Can!
        - Step By Step!
- 4. Is Your Heart:
  - A Strong Heart?
    - Full Of Faith That Is Willing To Be:
      - Nurtured By The Lord:
        - Through The Word & His Spirit?
  - Then - Stay Teachable!
    - Ask The Lord To Keep:
      - "Molding You & Making You After His Will!"
        - After All - He Is The Potter:
          - And You Are The Clay!
- 5. Praise The Lord:
  - That He "Knoweth Our Frame!"
    - And - He Deals With Us:
      - According To His Knowledge And Wisdom!
  - Let The Lord:
    - Take Your Heart - The Way It Is:
      - And Cultivate It So That:
        - Your Faith May Grow:
          - Deeper & Stronger & Wider & Greener!
  - Even Like A Tree:
    - "Planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper!" (Psalm 1:3)

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