



Series: SEEING IS BELIEVING  
(Book Study Gospel of John)

Christ First Church  
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Sermon 8: My Father's Child  
(John 2: 12-25)

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**INTRO:** Today we are back in John 2. We will look at verses 12-25, and finish up the chapter today. So turn in your Bibles, or if you have your John Journal, turn to chapter 2. If you are using a device, please take a moment to turn it on to John 2. I emphasize this because it's important that you read along with me. When dealing with the Word of God, don't ever take someone at *their* word. Always make sure that you are searching the scripture for yourself. That has never been more necessary than it is in this day that we live. The Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 4:1 "...that in the last days some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." It says again in Matthew 24:24 "For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the very elect." And make no mistake about it, we are living in the last days, according to scripture. It is very important that you take the time to read your Bible and know the Word of God for yourself.

Today, I am preaching on the subject, "MY FATHER'S CHILD". This is the 8th sermon in our series on the book of John titled, "Seeing Is Believing". As I shared with you in the introduction, and a couple of times since, John's account of Jesus, is that of deity! In John's gospel, we see Jesus, the GOD-man. In the synoptics, we see Jesus in His humanity, but John gives us this glorious picture of Jesus as the CHRIST, the chosen of God. Jesus is the SON of God, and He is GOD! And it is at the very beginning of His ministry that Jesus establishes Himself as the Son of Father God, the almighty!

Let's read together a few verses beginning with v 12...

**vv 12-17** "After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days. 13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make **my Father's house** a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

notice...

**1) THE CLAIM:** vv 12- 17 Let me set the scene of this passage before we jump in. V 12 tells us after the miracle of changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, that Jesus and His family and disciples went down to Capernaum and spent a few days there. Capernaum became the ministry headquarters of Jesus after John the Baptist was arrested. V 13 of our text then tells us that the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and so, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. These two verses gives us great insight into the life of Jesus, and how difficult things were for Jesus and Jewish people of His day.

**J) THE CLAIM:** vv 12- 17 CONTINUED First of all, we read that Jesus went DOWN from Cana of Galilee to Capernaum. It's approximately 16 miles from Cana to Capernaum. That's a full day's walk. The good news is, it's just about all down hill. Cana is situated about 905 feet above sea level, with Capernaum being at 640 feet below sea level. So there's a difference in elevation of about 1545 ft. That's about a 2% grade. So, although the terrain was difficult, and the distance was long, still it would have been a pleasant and scenic hike.

But then, we read that Jesus and His entourage set out toward Jerusalem for the Jewish Passover. Now, this is a much more difficult trek! The distance between Capernaum and Jerusalem is 85-90 miles! This is going to take 5 to 7 days, if no problems arise. And the last day will just be brutal. It's over 15 miles from Jericho to Jerusalem, with an elevation rise of 3000 feet. That's a 3.5 degree grade over 15 miles! And then there's the fact that it's the dangerous Jericho road that they are walking, where many fell among thieves and were beaten or killed. Are you getting the picture? LIFE WAS TOUGH in Jesus' day.

It's after this difficult journey that Jesus walks into the outer court area of the Temple and observes something that set off His righteous indignation...

v 14-15 *"In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. "*

Okay, it's hard to really understand what's going on at this point. Our western mind needs a little help to grasp the occasion. Jerusalem was typically a city of about 80,000-100,000 inhabitants during the time of Christ. But at Passover it is believed that more than a million Jews would come from all around the world to worship in the sacred city. Anytime you have a mass of people such as that show up in any one place, there will be those who hope to profit from them.

Now the Passover was a Jewish festival established for the purpose of commemorating Israel's deliverance from bondage in Egypt. The name, Passover (the transliteration being Pascha), comes from the night when the Lord, by His death angel, killed the first-born of the Egyptians, but passed over the houses of the Israelites who had the blood of a lamb applied to the door post and header of their homes. Passover is celebrated annually beginning on the fourteenth day of the month of Nisan of the Jewish calendar. On that day, between 3-6pm, lambs would be slaughtered and the Passover meal (the Seder) would be eaten that evening. The Feast of Unleavened Bread would follow over the next 7 days.

It's at this time that Jesus comes into Jerusalem. It was necessary that animals for sacrifice be sold during Passover because pilgrims that came from long distances, most likely would not be able to convey animals safely along on the journey. If they did try to bring an animal of their own, they ran the risk of the animal becoming sick or injured, and then being disqualified for use. So because of the risk involved, it was a safer practice to just buy an animal once they arrived in Jerusalem. The problem with that, of course, was that they were forced to buy animals at unethical, exorbitant prices!

It had not always been this way. At one time the animal merchants set up their stalls across the Kidron Valley on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, and operated in a fair fashion. but now they were in the temple courts, and it's a high profit game.

**I) THE CLAIM:** vv 12-17 CONTINUED What started out as a needful service for worshipers had, at this point, turned into nothing less than highway robbery!

Then there was the Money Changers. Money from other regions had to be exchanged for coins acceptable to the Jews and of course a fee was charged. This was a large and vibrant, albeit unethical, business taking place in God's House!

It is in this unruly atmosphere that Jesus steps up and speaks out! And what He says is monumental! Notice the CLAIM... vv 16-17 "And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make **my Father's house** a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

That phrase, "my Father's house" is a must see! Jesus is clearly making a Messianic claim. By calling God His Father, Jesus is making the clear implication that He is the **SON OF GOD!**

Even as a child Jesus knew this was true. At 12 years of age, in Luke 2:49, Jesus asked His parents, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" Later in John 5:18, John writes, "For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."

John Phillips - This bold attack on the "syndicate" proclaimed Jesus, in the most authentic manner possible, to be the Christ. Alone and single-handed he had taken on the establishment, including the Sanhedrin and the powerful Sadducean party, which both sponsored and doubtless profited from this traffic. He had overthrown an entrenched system of evil that posed as a public benefit. In doing so, he had proclaimed himself the Son of his Father, whose house these profane intruders were defiling. In view of the Passover, he had rid that house of the leaven of unrighteousness that had long corrupted it.

Make no mistake, Jesus CLAIMS to be the Son of God and the only way to God, because He is God!

**II) THE CURIOSITY:** vv 17-22 In two verses it's mentioned that the disciples remembered something. Jesus was hard to figure, as some might say. And rightfully so, He wasn't from this world. He wasn't like everyone else. All through the Word of God, when it speaks of Christ, we see people asking questions about Him. Trying to put the puzzle together, so to speak.

Here in v 17, after the disciples had seen Jesus whip people out of the temple, it says, "His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." That's a prophetic quote from Psalm 69:9 about the coming Messiah. Then again in v 22, it says, "When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken." This is talking about His statement to the Jews that you can destroy this temple but in three days I will raise it up! No one knew what He was talking about then, but after His resurrection, the disciples remembered His words.

Can you imagine the CURIOSITY that Jesus gave rise to? He spoke in parables, and what must have seemed like riddles to those whose minds were not opened by the Spirit. He did great miracles. He was unlike anything anyone knew about or expected.

## I) THE CLAIM: vv 12-17

**II) THE CURIOSITY:** vv 17-22 CONTINUED That's still true of Jesus today. Just when we think we have Him figured out, He does something different. I have been a Christian for over 45 years, and He still amazes me! I'm just as curious about Jesus today as I was the day I was saved. He has never lost His allure. I LOVE THAT ABOUT HIM.

What about you? How do you look at Jesus? Do you have Him all figured out? I didn't think so. But doesn't that curiosity about Him make you want to know Him more? I know it does me! Sometimes I just get lost in His Word, reading for hours, at awe of His greatness.

We have seen THE CLAIM, and THE CURIOSITY. Now let's see...

**III) THE CAUTION:** vv 23-25 "Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man."

These are some odd verses.

John MacArthur - Though they believed in Jesus, Jesus did not believe in them; He had no faith in their faith. Jesus "regarded all belief in Him as superficial which does not have, as its most essential elements, the consciousness of the need for forgiveness and the conviction that He alone is the Mediator of that forgiveness."

V 23 "...many believed..." Let's look at this word, believed, for a moment.

James 2:19 "You believe (Gr. *pisteuo*) that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe (*pisteuo*), and shudder."

In this passage, James explains that not all believing will result in salvation. The belief that he describes in this passage is a mental or intellectual belief that is not associated with a change of one's heart, and thus, one's behavior or actions. Belief in the New Testament sense, that effects the new birth, denotes more than a "demonic" like, intellectual assent to a set of facts or truths. The demons believe but they are clearly not saved. Genuine belief does involve an intellectual assent and consent of one's mind, but also includes an act of one's heart and will. Biblical saving faith is not passive assent but an active staking of one's life on the claims of God.

W E Vine defines belief as consisting of...

- (1) a firm conviction which produces full acknowledgment of God's revelation of Truth
- (2) a personal surrender to the Truth (John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe [*pisteuo*] in His name") and
- (3) a conduct inspired by and consistent with that surrender. (Luke 3:8 "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance")

**CONCLUSION:** In what way do you believe in Christ? Have you staked your life on His claims as Savior of the World, Son of God, and God, the only way to the Father?