

- I) V13 INTRO: Now the *Passover of the Jews* was at hand and Jesus went up to Jerusalem
- II) The New Testament consists of 27 books, the first four being called the gospels
Matthew wrote to a Jews, and quotes the OT more than any other gospel writer
Mark and Luke wrote mainly to Gentiles, revealing Jesus as the world's Messiah
- III) John wrote to a mixed audience and made sure he wrote clearly, to explain to his readers
- IV) It is interesting that John uses the term *the Jews* some 66 times in his gospel
Matthew uses the term 5 times, Mark 6 times, and Luke uses it 5 times
- V) HERE: John speaks of the Passover of the Jews, and we will look at this for a moment
- VI) Last time, we saw that Jesus had been in Capernaum, attending a wedding
He stayed a short time because He wanted to be present for Passover at Jerusalem
- VII) As an observant Jew, celebrating Passover was a lifelong habit of Jesus
Lu 2:41-42 Makes it clear that His parents went to Jerusalem every year for the Feast
This was the first Passover He observed *after His baptism*
- VIII) Passover is one of the three major feasts, along with Pentecost and Tabernacles
It is a celebration reminding the children of Israel of their deliverance from Egypt
Dt 16:16 reveals that mandatory attendance was required for each adult Jewish male
- IX) Israel (the family of Jacob) had lived Egypt for over 400 years and had grown numerous
At the end of those years, they suffered in slavery
- X) The bondage they endured was great, and they began to cry out to God for deliverance
The Lord God appeared to Moses and told him that they would be delivered
Ex 3:7-8 the LORD said: I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in
Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I
have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from
that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the
Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the
Jebusites.
- XI) Through a series of 10 plagues God judged Egypt along with its false gods
Nu 33:4 On *their gods* the LORD had executed judgments
- XII) This provoked the Egyptians to let the people go

- I) The last plague was on all of the firstborn, from animals to the son of Pharaoh
Ex 12:12 I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike 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.
- II) The Jews were to sacrifice a lamb without blemish and smear its blood on the doorposts
When the destroyer came and saw the blood, he would pass over the house
Nu 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt
- III) Passover was a foreshadowing of a greater deliverance or redemption yet to come
It was intended to foreshadow the death of Jesus and His covering us with His blood
1 Co 5:7 For indeed Christ, *our Passover*, was sacrificed for us.
- IV) At the Passover celebration the lamb that was slain is consumed in a meal
The sacrificial lamb was to be kept from the 10th day to the 14th day (Ex 12:3-6)
On the 14th day it was slain and eaten
- V) Why was the lamb kept for so long? So that emotional attachment would occur
The slaying of the lamb should cause pain to the ones slaying it
- VI) Each family had one lamb: if the family was small, then a neighbor would join them
Ex 12:4 if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take *it* according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.
- VII) Though different families they were each reminded of this sacrifice and deliverance
This is because genuine *Faith* is to be *lived out in community*, not only individually
Communion serves now the reminder of the Lamb that was slain
- VIII) FACT: Often you will hear that Jesus was around 33 years old when He was crucified
How do we come to that conclusion?
- IX) *FIRST*: We know his approximate age when He began His ministry
Lu 3:23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age
- X) *ALSO*: John records Jesus celebrating three Passovers (here)
THE SECOND: Jn 6:4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near
THE THIRD: Jn 11:55 The Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves.

- I) **AGAIN:** Jesus is about to celebrate one of the great feasts in Israel
A feast that celebrates God's deliverance from bondage, filled with joy and celebration
What does He encounter as He enters in to the court of the Gentiles
- II) **V14** And He found in *the temple* those who sold oxen and sheep and doves and the
- III) **As He walked in to the court of the gentiles, He encountered people doing business**
Booths were set up for the purchase of sacrificial animals and for money changing
- IV) **ESSENTIALLY:** The area had been turned in to a market place
It was crowded, noisy, and smelly
Merchants were selling oxen, sheep, doves, oil, and salt for the Passover
Concession fees were charged, so the merchants simply transferred costs to pilgrims
- V) **RESULT:** The sincere Pilgrims who had come to celebrate were being robbed
How was this occurring
- VI) **FIRST:** To celebrate Passover, it was necessary for the Pilgrims to have an offering
The Priests had established inspectors to insure that the offering was acceptable
Lev. 22:21-22 When anyone brings from the herd or flock a fellowship offering to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or as a freewill offering, it must be without *defect* or *blemish* to be acceptable. Do not offer to the LORD the blind, the injured or the maimed, or anything with warts or festering or running sores. Do not place any of these on the altar as an offering made to the LORD by fire.
- VII) The inspectors were rejecting the animals and a different animal was then sold to them
The pilgrim often paid up to *10 times* the actual value of the animal
- VIII) **SECOND:** At this time, many would pay their Temple Tax (Maintenance of the Temple)
If they brought in foreign currency, it was recognized as *unclean*
It would then be exchanged for Jewish shekels, at a *25%* rate of exchange
- IX) One commentator said that the priests and Levites very often sold the animals they had received for sacrifices to the dealers in cattle, at a lower rate, that they might sell them again with profit; so that the same sacrifices were often sold to different persons, and the profits were divided between the priests and the salesmen
- X) **V15-16** When He had made a whip of cords He drove them all out of the temple with the
- XI) **A whip of cords:** small marsh plants, with hollow stems
These would not leave lasting damage: they fled at His passion, not the pain

- I) Why anger: Because cleansing God's House was the first and the last care of Jesus
- II) We must remember that the Temple is where people came to worship God
The outer court was the only place all nations could assemble in the temple precincts
The other three courts (Women, Men, and Priests) were restricted to Jews alone
- III) This is where Jew and Gentile could come together in the worship of God
In the court of the Gentiles, the nations could gather to learn of God
Mk 11:17 (2nd cleansing) He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"
- IV) Seeing this area filled with people profiteering from the faith of His of people angered Him
The temple is not a marketplace: It is His Father's House, a place of worship
- V) His zeal and passion for His Father fueled Him to cleanse the courtyard
Seeing His Father blasphemed, His temple desecrated and people stumbled angered Him
- VI) God's house is to be a house of prayer for *all nations* and not just Israel (Jn 3:16)
Rev 5:9 They sang a new song saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation
- VII) V17 The people are not stumbled by this demonstration of righteous indignation
It actually calls to mind a scripture in the Psalms (69:9)
This was not the act of a reformer, but of the Messiah
- VIII) V18 So the Jews answered and said to Him What sign do You show to us since You do
A sign was for them a proof of authority: By what authority do you do these things?
- IX) They did not dispute with Him that what He did was right, but Who was He to do this?
- X) V19 Jesus answered destroy this temple, and in three days / will raise it up
This is the clearest sign they will ever have: His Resurrection
Jn 10:17-18 Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father
- XI) V20 Then the Jews said It has taken forty-six years to build this temple and will You
Herod was a builder and he repaired and beautified the temple for many years
He did this partly because he liked to build, and also to try to win over the Jews
Work had been going on for forty-six years!

- I) V21 But He was speaking of the *temple of His body*
This is a very important article of essential Christian doctrine
The physical resurrection of Jesus' actual body
- II) There are theologians who do not believe in His actual, physical resurrection
Some say the gospels are inconsistent in the account and are simply historic tales
Some believe that myths influenced the beliefs of early Christians, and
Some think that His resurrection is a story that gained influence over the years
- III) Some say that Jesus' resurrection was spiritual, not physical
- IV) JW's teach that Jesus was not physically resurrected: in their booklet *You can live Forever on Paradise Earth* they say Jesus rose as a *spirit creature* and that the material body of Jesus was taken away by Jehovah
- V) They teach that Jesus took on different physical forms when He rose from the dead
They say He took on the appearance of a gardener to Mary Magdalene
They say He assumed a different body when He appeared on the Road to Emmaus
- VI) Was He assuming the body of a gardener
When Jesus spoke to her in Jn 20:15 and asked *Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking* John tells writes: *She, supposing Him to be gardener*
- VII) When He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Luke tells us that they did not recognize Him because Lu 24:16 *their eyes were restrained*, so that they did not know Him
- VIII) As for Jesus having a *spirit body*, Luke tells us that when Jesus appeared before His eleven apostles that they thought they were seeing a spirit and Jesus told them *Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? behold My hands and My feet, that it is I myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have*
- IX) *Flesh and blood does not inherit the kingdom, Jesus's body was flesh and bones*
- X) QUOTE: The bodily resurrection of Jesus is the most important event in history, providing irrefutable evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God. The resurrection was not only the supreme validation of His deity, it also validated the Scriptures, which foretold His coming and resurrection. Moreover, it authenticated Christ's claims that He would be raised on the third day and it is the event that provides hope that we will also be resurrected. Apart from Jesus's bodily resurrection, we have no Savior, no salvation, and no hope of eternal life. As the apostle Paul said, our faith would be "useless" and the life-giving power of the gospel would be altogether eliminated.

- I) The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith
If He was not resurrected then our faith in Him is really useless
1 Co 15:17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins
- II) V21 Jesus was hinging His authority on the validity of the bible
- III) He was saying that the scriptures pointed them to this central fact
Jn 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me
- IV) His resurrection was foretold
Ps 16:10 You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption
Ro 1:4 (Jesus was) declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead
- V) Various times in His teachings, Jesus prepared His disciples for His resurrection
At first, they did not understand completely but when it happened, they knew
- VI) V22 Therefore when He had risen from the dead His disciples remembered that He had
After His resurrection they were able to remember He had told them it would happen
Lu 24:6-8 after His resurrection when the women came to the tomb the angels said to them He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" And they remembered His words.
- VII) Without the Holy Spirit, ultimately the Scriptures do not make sense
With need the illumination He gives (1 Co 2:14)
Jn 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
- VIII) V23-25 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover during the feast many believed in
People began to show an interest in Him because of the works He performed
Jesus would not entrust Himself to this kind of faith, because it was not fully in Him
Their level of belief was centered on His ability to *do works*, not on His ability to *save*