

John 2:12-25 At the Temple

2:12 - ...He went down to Capernaum... (elevation = -682 ft.)
About an 18 to 20 mile walk.

Capernaum – Jesus adopted Capernaum as His ministry base in Galilee and moved there from Nazareth.

“...leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.” Matthew 4:13

2:13 - ...and Jesus went up to Jerusalem (elevation = 2,582 ft.)
Approximately 85 miles or a three-day journey

And the Passover of the Jews was at hand... In the Old Testament the Passover is referred to as “*The Lord’s Passover*” (Exodus 12:11, 48, Lev. 23:5, Numbers 28:16, etc.). John may be simply noting that it is a Jewish festival or he may be hinting that the Lord is now being left out of the Passover.

2:14-16 The Cleansing of the Temple

Only John records this cleansing of the Temple. The Synoptics record a second cleansing after Jesus’ triumphal entry.

In the Temple - This was the outer court of the Gentiles

2:17 Zeal for Thy House will consume Me Psalm 69:9

David spoke these words concerning himself in past tense, yet the Holy Spirit applies it to the Messiah, Jesus. Psalm 69 is quoted seventeen times in the N.T. Two more times in John (15:25, 19:28-29). When Jesus cleansed the temple He declared war on the hypocritical leaders and this ultimately led to His death. His zeal for God’s house did consume Him!

2:18 *What sign do you show us?* They were not concerned with the justice of His actions. They wanted to know by what authority He had acted.

2:19 *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*

The sign that Jesus gave was not what they wanted. Jesus replied to their unbelief as He often did, in parabolic language. The Sanhedrin used a misquote of these words as a capital charge against Jesus at His trial (Mark 14:58, 15:29). The Jews and even the disciples misunderstood that Jesus meant his physical body. Jesus’ body was a temple in a unique sense. In it the ultimate sacrifice would take place!

2:20-22

When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered...and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken.

We believe in Jesus for eternal life. However, our understanding, and thus our faith in Him should continually grow.

2:23 *Many believed in His name* – Many trusted in Jesus and became children of God. Compare John 1:12 and 3:18 where this phrase is clearly referring to eternal life.

Beholding His signs – The signs validated to them that He was the Messiah! John records seven but states that Jesus did many more (20:30).

2:24-25

Not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men –

Jesus had no need of human approval. He knew that many who had trusted Him for eternal life would be afraid to serve Him.

Later He did begin to disclose Himself to his disciples as they grew in their relationship. Believing in Jesus always results in eternal life in John. However, the quality of that life grows when believers commit to knowing and following Jesus.

“...he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.” John 14:21

Note the use of this verb in Romans 3:2 and 1 Timothy 1:11.

The *secret* Saint:

- Nicodemus – *Came... by night* – 3:2

- *The parents of the blind man* - 9:18-23

- *Joseph of Arimathea* - *Being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one, for fear of the Jews...* 19:38-40

He Himself knew what was in man –

“He knows the depths of my heart yet He loves me the same...”

“*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...*”

John 3:16

Chiastic Structure

A – Jesus went to Jerusalem – 2:13-16

B– The disciples remember the O.T. – 2:17

C– Question of the Jews – 2:18

D– Destroy this temple... 2:19

C’– Question of the Jews – 2:20-21

B’– The disciples remember the O.T. – 2:22

A’ – While He was in Jerusalem – 2:23

Lessons for us:

God desires relationship over ritual (1 Samuel 15:22, Hosea 6:6, Proverbs 21:3, Amos 5:21-24)

The more our faith grows the more God reveals Himself to us (Matt. 25:21).