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**Read :23-25. :23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.** Sēmeia means a sign. They told people something about the person who did the sign. John doesn't tell us what miracles Jesus did in Jerusalem, but Jesus did do signs there. They pointed to His Person. Saving faith must go beyond the signs to the Person. A faith that is based on the Person of Jesus (the One described in **chapter 1**) is what saves anyone.

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**Psalm 69** was taken to refer to the Messiah (later quoted in **15:25 & 19:28**). We see Jesus' passion for the Father and His jealous guardianship of the Father's interests. This action was the action of none other than the Jewish Christ, the Son of God! Can you imagine what the disciples felt while this was going on! Embarrassed perhaps or fearful of what the authorities would do. After Jesus' resurrection, they remembered **Ps. 69:9**, but at this moment??

**:18 The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things (lit. that You do these)?"** **Mal. 3:1** says, "**And the Lord (Adonai), whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple.**" The Jewish leadership recognized this as an act of the Messiah. They demanded to see His credentials: "What's Your sign/authority for doing these things?" (They do the same later in **6:30**. Also see **Mt. 12:38, 16:1, Mk. 8:11-12, Lk. 11:16, Jn. 6:30, 1 Cor. 1:22.**) One man in the crowd recognized Jesus' sign; his name was Nicodemus; **read 3:2**. Notice Nicodemus says "We realize God is with You."

**:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple (Grk. naos, sanctuary), and in three days I will raise it up."** First, Jesus never said He would destroy the whole physical Temple and then rebuild it. In **:14-15**, when it tells of Jesus cleansing the Temple, the word used for temple is 'hieron' which refers to the Temple as a whole (temple complex). The word Jesus uses in **:19** and the Jews repeat in **:20** is 'naos', which refers to the inner sanctuary of the temple: where God would dwell with His people and where His glory could be seen.

The only sign that would have any meaning to them: the sign of His own resurrection. "In 3 days I will build another, not made with hands" (**Mk. 14:58**). How many of us would have understood Him that day?

**:20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple (naos, sanctuary), and will You raise it up in three days?"** It had begun in 20 B.C. The idea that Jesus would raise up in just 3 days a structure which had already

been in the building process for 46 years and was not yet finished (A.D. 64)!

**:21 But He was speaking of the temple (naos, sanctuary) of His body.** These words are John’s interpretation written long afterwards. We meet God in Jesus and only in Jesus, not in a place or building but in a Person. He is the place where the glory of God can be seen and experienced. Jesus had come to show people a way to come to God without any physical Temple at all! **God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (4:24).**

**:22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture [Ps. 16:10] and the word which Jesus had spoken.** They did not catch the meaning until after His resurrection.

**Read :23-25. :23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.** Sēmeia means a sign. They told people something about the person who did the sign. John doesn’t tell us what miracles Jesus did in Jerusalem, but Jesus did do signs there. They pointed to His Person. Saving faith must go beyond the signs to the Person. A faith that is based on the Person of Jesus (the One described in **chapter 1**) is what saves anyone.

**:24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men.** Jesus didn’t entrust Himself to those who had professed belief only on the basis of His miracles. The things that were necessarily arresting, startling, spectacular were all they wanted. He did not want followers unless they clearly knew & definitely accepted what was involved in following Him.

Jesus knew there were many whose interest in Him would be short-lived. If He had begun to talk to them about who He was or about following the Father’s will, “they would have stared at Him with blank incomprehension and left Him on the spot, as they did after He had fed them in **chapter 6**.”

**:25 And because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.** Jesus knew people could be swept away in a moment of emotion, and then back out when they discovered what choosing to believe and to follow Him really meant. “The apparatus of Jewish religion—Temple, Sabbath, circumcision, the law—would be done away in Christ.” It’s not a performance-based acceptance but a Jesus-in-and-through-us acceptance.

The Jewish religious ‘practices’ had crept inside the Temple until people were probably unaware that anything was wrong with the practices. What religious ‘practices’ do we mechanically follow without thinking about their meaning?

The disciples looked at the Lord Jesus with different eyes as they walked away from this scene. How does this passage and its truths impact you?

If Jesus, prompted by the Father, cleaned out the Temple, it was honoring to the Father and it was best for the Temple. We are temples of the Spirit of God and Jesus lives in our spirits, so if He cleans out certain areas, it’s honoring to the Father and best for us! See **1 Pet. 4:12-19**. People saw what God saw when Jesus looked at the Temple. What does God see when He looks at our lives? What changes does He want to make in you?

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