

At the Temple in Jerusalem

John 2:12-25

February 22, 2026

I. Introduction

A. Overview

1. First mention of the siblings of Jesus – v. 12
2. Passover Number One – v. 13
3. Temple cleansing Number One – v. 14-17
4. First reference to His resurrection – vs. 18-22
5. Note again the power of believing – vs. 23-25

II. At the Temple

A. His siblings – v. 12

1. *“He went down to Capernaum.”*
 - a. Capernaum is on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Although it is north of Cana, *“He went down”* because of the decline in elevation toward the sea.
2. He is rejoined by Mary and His brothers.
 - a. Matthew 13:55, 56 and Mark 6:3 add that He also had sisters.
3. The Catholic Church teaches the perpetual virginity of Mary. This is not necessary or historically accurate.

B. The first Passover of His public ministry – v. 13

1. All of the following passages mention Passover except 5:11
The challenge is whether three or four are named
 - a. John 2:13, 23; 5:11; 6:4; 11:55; 12:1; 13:1; 19:14
2. No feast of Israel better pictures the crucifixion
3. John says Jesus was crucified on the day of Passover
 - a. Matthew, Mark and Luke say the day before Passover

C. The first cleansing of the temple – vs. 14-17

1. A second occurs on day two of Passover week
 - a. Matthew 21:12, 13; Mark 11:15, 16 and Luke 19:45, 46
2. Many pilgrims would come to Jerusalem for Passover. They found it easier to buy the sacrificial animals than to travel with them. They would come with various forms of currency, and the money changes would convert their currency to the local currency and sell them animals. The problem was that they took advantage of the situation (i.e. extortion).
3. Currently believers are referred to as the Temple of God.
 - a. I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19
4. This temple was built by Zerubbabel (Ezra 3:8) but remodeled by Herod, which took 46 years (verse 20). It was

destroyed in 70 A.D. as Jesus predicted (Matthew 24:2). A third Jewish temple will be built (II Thessalonians 2:4). There will be no temple in heaven (Revelation 21:22).

5. Is this event a fulfillment of Malachi 3:1-3?

D. The first reference to His resurrection – vs. 18-22

1. They want a sign – v. 18
 - a. Matthew 12:39
2. The religious authorities want to know by what authority He does this. They deny His person (Deity) and do not comprehend His work (the cross and empty grave).

E. The power and absolute necessity of “believing” – vs. 23-25

1. It is used by John more than any New Testament writer
2. He says it is the purpose of his gospel account – John 20:30, 31
3. Believe is all that God requires for justification (John 3:16-18). To do so is to pass from death to life (5:24). To do so results in assurance of salvation (I John 5:11-13).
4. I fear and disagree with what some believers do with these verses.
 - a. They say although the people “believed in His name” their faith was not “true faith” or “saving faith”. They say this because of the statement Jesus made in verse 24. *“He was not entrusting Himself to them”*.
 - b. There is a huge difference between justification and sanctification. John 15:1-11 addresses this in detail.
 - c. A few brief points
 - i. Believed in His name is a huge statement. John uses it two more time (John 1:12 and 3:18).
 - ii. Nicodemus is the main character in one of the most well-known stories in the New Testament. He “believes” in John 3:18 what these people in Chapter Two do in verse 22. Yet Nicodemus is called a “secret” disciple in John 19:38, 39 and no one questioned his faith.
 - iii. The apostle Paul himself said pray for me *“that I may make it clear”*.
 - Colossians 4:3, 4