

I. PREVIOUSLY

- A. A few days after the previous events
 - 1. Vs. 13 – Passover was at hand
 - a. Imminent, soon, upcoming
 - b. He went UP to Jerusalem
 - 2. Vs. 23 – Now when He was IN Jerusalem
- B. In the feast day
 - 1. Different from “at the Passover”
 - a. Numbers 28:16 – “And in the fourteenth day of the first month *is* the Passover of the LORD.”
 - b. The festival that followed was 7 days of unleavened bread
 - c. Starting on the 15th
 - 2. All the males had to appear in the court (including Jesus)
 - a. It was a time of mirth and joy
 - b. And it would have been an appropriate time for Christ to work miracles in the Temple
 - c. Many would see
 - 3. But these were not recorded in Scripture
 - a. John 21:25 (read)
 - b. God did not think it necessary for us to know
 - c. But these miracles were enough
- C. Many were stirred
 - 1. But not truly converted
 - 2. Booth at the fairgrounds
 - a. Watched a great presentation (desc.)
 - b. “Those look like really sharp knives...”
 - c. But we just moved along
 - d. We didn’t buy anything
- D. Today we will look (in three short verses)
 - 1. At the Passover
 - 2. The Preaching
 - 3. And the Phonies

II. PASSOVER

- A. Exodus 12:1-7
 - 1. Keep the lamb
 - 2. Kill it, strike the blood
 - 3. Vs. 4 and Vs.5
 - a. First it was “the” lamb

- b. Then it becomes “your” lamb
 - c. You must make the Son of God YOUR Savior
 - d. He can’t be Grandma’s Savior or Daddy’s
 - e. God only has children, never grandchildren
 - 4. 4 days
 - a. Ever wonder about this “Good Friday” business?
 - b. How can you fit 3 days and 3 nights into Friday – Sunday?
 - c. Look at vs. 3 – 10th day they took a lamb
 - d. And vs. 6 – killed it on the 14th day
 - e. Sounds like a Palm Sunday to Wednesday Crucifixion
- B. Exodus 12:11-13
 - 1. Be ready to go!
 - 2. When I see the blood!
 - a. EXPOUND!!!!
 - b. I will PASS OVER!
- C. Exodus 12:14-17 – An ordinance forever
 - 1. This is the festival
 - 2. A symbolic feast remembering the blood of a lamb in Egypt
 - 3. A symbolic feast picturing the Blood of THE Lamb on the cross!

III. PREACHING

- A. Preaching was expected at Passover!
 - 1. Wouldn’t it be nice if people came to churches expecting preaching?
 - 2. It would have been weird without preaching, in fact
 - 3. God commanded it!
- B. II Chronicles 30:22 – “And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.”
 - 1. The preachers taught the “good knowledge of the LORD”
 - 2. They ate the feast
 - 3. Offering peace offerings (the sheep, oxen, and doves – vs. 14)
 - 4. Made confession to the LORD
- C. Jesus Preached and Performed Miracles
 - 1. People often look askance at the word “doctrine”
 - a. Simply means teaching
 - b. Jesus spent His time teaching and preaching
 - 2. It would have been a perfect time
 - a. All of the Jewish males commanded to attend every year
 - b. The reach would have been immense
 - c. And then there were the miracles
 - 3. We don’t know exactly what He did
 - a. But we know from other places in Scripture that His fame spread

- b. We also know this:
 - i. A young Rabbi named Nicodemus called Jesus “Rabbi”
 - ii. A young man named Nicodemus knew Jesus was of God
- 4. People accepted Jesus as a teacher... but not as Savior
- 5. I Corinthians 1:18 – “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

IV. PHONIES

- A. People believed... But only when they “saw”
 - 1. A faith that rests upon seeing miracles is not a saving faith!
 - 2. How can I say that?
 - 3. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
 - a. If you can see it
 - b. You don’t need to “faith” it!
 - c. If I already “have it”
 - d. I don’t need to “hope it”
- B. Commit and Believe (vs. 23 & 24)
 - 1. Same Greek word in both verses – “think to be true”
 - 2. I struggled with that
 - a. They “believed”
 - b. But He did not “believe” them?
 - 3. Then I realized – they missed it!
 - a. They had a head knowledge!
 - b. They only THOUGHT it was true
 - c. But He did not think THEM to be true
 - d. Works perfectly!
 - 4. Simon, the sorcerer of Samaria “believed” in Acts 8 and then offered to pay money for the “power” to give the Holy Ghost
 - 5. James 2:19 – “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”
 - 6. Romans 10:9-10 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
- C. He Knew (vs. 24)
 - 1. No one needed to testify
 - a. No one need to tell HIM about man’s wickedness
 - b. Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
 - 2. He already knew – Look at John 6:64
 - 3. His knowledge declares his divine omniscience

- a. This knowledge did not come from others (no one testified)
- b. Even His Angels
 - i. They are God's messengers
 - ii. Not His spies
- c. II Chronicles 16:9a – "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,"

V. PLEA

- A. He knows what is in a man
 - 1. Even you and I
 - 2. He sees
- B. The question today is: do you "think Him to be true"
- C. Or does your heart KNOW Him to be true?
 - 1. When I saw myself as a sinner
 - 2. I could see Him as my only Savior