

FOUR REASONS TO WORSHIP JESUS CHRIST

John 2:13-25

By Andy Manning

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Christians are those who worship Jesus Christ. We believe He is God. We sing to Him, pray to Him, and obey Him no matter the cost.
2. Why is that? In the following text we're going to see four reasons to worship Jesus Christ.
3. I hope this will fan the flames of your love for Jesus. And if you are not a Christian, I hope this sermon will convince you to turn to Christ.

II. TEXT & EXPLANATION

13 The Jewish Passover was near, and so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

1. The Passover was the greatest of all Jewish feasts.
2. The Passover was on the 14th of Nisan. The paschal lambs were killed on that day, between 3-6 pm, and then after sunset, so technically on the 15th of Nisan, every family would sit down to have the Passover meal between sunset and midnight. Then the Festival of Unleavened Bread would follow for the entire week until the 21st of Nisan.
3. All Jewish men living within fifteen miles of Jerusalem were required to travel to Jerusalem for three festivals a year: Passover (The Festival of Unleavened Bread), The Festival of Weeks (Pentecost), and the Festival of Ingathering (Tabernacles).
4. Jews from all over the world traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. It was the dream of every Jew in the world to travel to Jerusalem at least once in his life for the Passover. As many as 2.25 million people sometimes assembled in Jerusalem for the Passover.

14 In the temple he found people selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and he also found the money changers sitting there.

1. The Jews from all over the world who had assembled for the Passover would want to offer a sacrifice while they were there. Instead of bringing their sacrificial animals with them, it was much easier to purchase the animals in Jerusalem.
2. There was also a tax that every Jew over nineteen years of age had to pay. It was the temple tax. The money from this tax was used for the daily ministry of the temple. It was a half-shekel, or almost two-day's wages. The temple tax had to be with a certain kind of coin – a Jewish coin. So, when all the out-of-towners came to Jerusalem to pay the temple tax, they had to see a money changer. A money changer, for a fee, would exchange your foreign money for the local currency.

3. I remember having to use money changers when I traveled to different parts of the world, like Taiwan, and Turkey, and England. The local stores didn't accept American money, so you had to go to a money changer and get the local currency.

15 After making a whip out of cords, he drove everyone out of the temple with their sheep and oxen. He also poured out the money changers' coins and overturned the tables. 16 He told those who were selling doves, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

1. Jesus saw that these people were misusing God's temple, and interfering with the worship of God. So He personally made a whip and ran everyone out.

17 And his disciples remembered that it is written: Zeal for your house will consume me.

1. The disciples were remembering Psalm 69, which was believed to be written about the Messiah.
2. The Psalmist endured insults and rejection even by His own family because of His zeal (passion; great energy or enthusiasm) for the God's house.
3. The disciples realized as Jesus was cleansing the temple, that Psalm 69 was being fulfilled right in front of them.

18 So the Jews replied to him, "What sign will you show us for doing these things?"

19 Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days."

20 Therefore the Jews said, "This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days?"

21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 So when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the statement Jesus had made.

1. The Jewish leaders saw that Jesus was acting like the Messiah by assuming the authority to cleanse the temple. So, they asked Him for a sign to prove that He was the Messiah.
2. Jesus told them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days."
3. They immediately dismissed His words as crazy because the temple had been under construction for 46 years, and it was still unfinished.
4. The temple in Jesus' day was not the first temple (Solomon's temple), which was destroyed by the Babylonians. It was the postexilic temple built after the Babylonian captivity under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Haggia, and Zechariah (Ezra 1-6). Centuries later, around 20 B.C., King Herod undertook an extensive reconstruction project. By the time of this story, it had been under constant construction for forty-six years, and it would continue for another twenty years until AD 64. Unfortunately, it would be destroyed once and for all just six years later in AD 70, and to this day it hasn't been rebuilt.
5. But Jesus wasn't talking about the Jewish temple; He was speaking of the temple of His body. He was predicting His death and resurrection three days later.

6. Later Jesus condemned the Jews for demanding a sign; He said the only sign He would give was His death and resurrection.
7. **Matthew 12:39-40** “An evil and adulterous generation demands a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.”
8. What’s wrong with asking for a sign? Jesus knew their hearts. He knew that those asking for a sign didn’t really want a sign. They had already made up their minds that they did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. They only asked for a sign because they didn’t believe that Jesus could give a sign, thereby giving them an excuse to reject Him. Jesus would go on to perform many miracles, signs, and wonders for all to see (as the next verse says). But for the Jewish leaders who hated Him, He rejected their demand for a sign.
9. Usually people who demand more evidence would not believe even if the evidence was provided. They claim they can’t believe, but the truth is that they don’t want to believe.

23 While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. 24 Jesus, however, would not entrust himself to them, since he knew them all 25 and because he did not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man.

1. This is a very interesting portion of Scripture. Many people believed in Jesus, but there was something wrong with their belief. It wasn’t the kind of faith that Jesus was looking for. There is a belief that saves, and a belief that condemns. And Jesus, being God, could see their hearts.
2. Let’s look at little deeper in this story, and we’re going to see four reasons to worship Jesus Christ.

III. **FOUR REASONS TO WORSHIP CHRIST**

1. **His pious character.**

- i. The Bible says that Jesus is perfectly sinless.
 1. **2 Cor 5:21** “He did not know sin.”
 2. **Heb 4:15** “has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.”
 3. **1 Jn 3:5** “there is no sin in him”
- ii. One of the reasons this is believable is because His disciples spent every moment with Him for three years, and they taught that He was sinless, they worshiped Him, and they gave their lives for Him.
- iii. Another reason this you can’t find any imperfections in Christ when you read His story. One of the reasons the Bible is so believable is that it paints a true picture of its heroes. It tells of David’s adultery and murder and dysfunctional family. It tells of Moses’ insecurity and anger problems. It tells of Jacob’s dishonesty, Samson’s foolishness. It tells us of Elijah’s fear, and King Saul’s disobedience. It tells of Peter’s arrogance, and the disciples’

unbelief. It tells of Paul's background as a persecutor of Christians. The Bible tells the truth of its heroes. But when it comes to Jesus, it never shows Christ doing anything wrong. He is perfect.

- iv. In the story of Christ cleansing the temple, we see His pious character on display. In fact, Christ shows us what true Christian piety – godliness; devotion to God – looks like.
 1. Action. When Jesus saw the temple being misused, He took action. He did something. For many people, the sum of their religion is belief. They believe in God. They believe in the “good Lord,” the “big man upstairs.” They believe in the “good book.” Godliness is far more than right belief; it includes right action. It is not just about right doctrine; it's about right living. It's about action. It's about obedience. It's about repentance. It's about service. It's about getting your hands dirty for Christ. It's about making a difference for Christ. It's about being Christ's hands and feet in the world. It's about building the church, and helping people in need. You may believe in Jesus, and believe in the Bible, but that doesn't mean you are a Christian. True Christianity is active. It is active against sin; and active for the cause of Christ.
 2. Emotion. In this story Christ displays great emotion. Righteous anger. Zeal for God's house. Compassion for people. True Christianity godliness involves great emotion. Joy and celebration and gratitude in worship. Fervency in prayer. Sorrow for sin. Zeal for the church. Passion for the Great Commission. Compassion for the lost and the hurting. Godly people are full of emotion for God and the things of God.
 3. Risk. Jesus took a great risk in this story when He made a whip and drove all of the businessmen out of the temple. He could have been beaten up. He could have been laughed at. He could have been arrested. He could have been banned from the temple, or even kicked out of the city. But He was willing to risk all of that for God. Godly people are willing to take risks for God. They are willing to put their neck on the line for God. They are willing to be laughed at, and rejected, and persecuted for Christ. They are willing to be different. They are willing to stand alone for Christ. They are willing get uncomfortable; to suffer; to lose it all for Jesus.
 4. Defense. In our story, the Jews were misusing God's house. And Jesus took it upon Himself to defend God by driving the businessmen out of the temple. That's what godly people do. They come to God's defense. Godly people do not remain silent when God's name is

slandered; when Christ is criticized; when the church is mocked. They speak up. They stand up.

5. Worship. Jesus cast the marketplace out of the temple because they were interfering with worship. The temple existed for worship, and Jesus was passionate about worship. He was serious about worship. Godly people are serious about worship. They are passionate about worship. They prioritize worship. They worship God alone in a daily quiet time. They make it a priority to attend church so they can worship corporately with the body of Christ. And when it is time for worship, they worship. They focus. They worship with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.
6. Love. Jesus took the action that He did in the temple not just because He loved His heavenly Father, but because He loved people. As we'll see in just a moment, people were being robbed, and people were being prevented from worshiping God, and that's why Jesus got so angry. He loved people. Godliness is not just vertical, it is horizontal. It is not just about loving God, but loving people. It is not just about avoiding the bad, but doing the good.
- v. Jesus perfectly exemplified pious character. He was tempted in every way we are, yet was without sin. He is holy, worthy of worship. He is the perfect example to us of how to live. That's why we worship Him.

2. His passionate love.

- i. Let's talk a little more about Christ's love. To do that we need to understand a little more about what was going on in the temple. There are two reasons that Jesus was so angry.
 1. The Court of Gentiles. The temple was made up of several courts that led up to the temple proper – the holy place, and most holy place. There was the Court of Gentiles, then the Court of Women, then the Court of Israelites, then the Court of the Priests. The Court of Gentiles was a place set aside for Gentiles who worshiped God. It provided a place for non-Jews to come and worship the Lord. They couldn't go any closer. It was in the Court of Gentiles that the marketplace was set up, which prevented the Gentiles from worshiping God. That's what made Jesus so upset.
 - a. **Mark 11:17** He was teaching them: "Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves!"
 2. Stealing.
 - a. Every day thousands of Jews would go to the temple to present sacrifices to God. But when they went to the temple marketplace to purchase their animals, they were sold at very

high prices. You could bring a dove from home for five cents, but at the temple they would charge \$5. So, why didn't people just bring their sacrifices with them from home? The pilgrims traveling far distances found it too burdensome to tug along sacrificial animals. Also, sacrificial animals had to be perfect, without blemish. The priests appointed animal inspectors to ensure that sacrifices were unblemished. They took advantage of this and made sure that any time someone brought an animal from outside the temple, it was rejected, forcing people to pay the extremely high prices in the temple marketplace. It reminds me of what movie theaters do. They don't allow you to bring in outside food and drinks, and then they jack up the prices of their food and drinks.

- b. Also, when the people went to the money changers to exchange their money, they charged a very high fee. These pilgrims who had traveled long distances to worship God were being fleeced in the name of religion, inside the temple.
- ii. When Jesus saw how people were being hurt, His love drove Him to take action. He was protecting people. This is why we worship Jesus. He loves us.
- iii. Christ's love was best demonstrated on the cross when He willingly died for our sins.
- iv. **Ephesians 5:2** "and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God."
- v. Let's meditate more on Christ's love:
 1. His love is unconditional:
 - a. He loved you before you became a Christian, while you were still His enemy.
 - b. He loves you regardless of what you look like.
 - c. He loves you regardless of your income.
 - d. He loves you regardless of your race.
 - e. He loves you regardless of your sex.
 - f. He loves you just the same as everyone else.
 - g. He loves you when sin. He loves you when you fail. He loves you when you backslide.
 2. His love is full.
 - a. He can't love you more than He does, and He will not love you any less.
 3. His love is constant. It will never run out. **Romans 8:38-39** "38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor

depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

vi. This is why we worship Jesus.

3. His predictive accuracy.

- i. In our story, when Christ was asked to perform a sign to prove He was the Messiah, He made a prediction. He predicted His death and resurrection. He said, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.”
- ii. Jesus made detailed predictions about His death and resurrection on several occasions.

1. **Mark 10:32-34** 32 They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were astonished, but those who followed him were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them the things that would happen to him. 33 “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles, 34 and they will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him, and he will rise after three days.”

2. Notice the details:

- a. He predicted the location of His death. “See, we are going up to Jerusalem.”
- b. He predicted that He would be betrayed. “The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes.” **Luke 9:44** “Let these words sink in: The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.”
- c. He predicted that the Jewish leaders would condemn Him to death. “The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death.”
- d. He predicted that the Romans would kill him. “Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles.”
- e. He predicted the kind of suffering he would endure “And they will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him.”
- f. He predicted His resurrection. “And he will rise.”
- g. He predicted the timing of his resurrection. “after three days.”

- iii. We worship Jesus because as God, He is omniscient. He knows everything. We already saw how in chapter one, He knew Peter’s name and the name of Peter’s father before he met him (Jn 1:42). He knew Nathanael’s heart when He said, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit (Jn 1:47). He knew where Nathanael was earlier that day – under the fig tree (Jn 1:48). And here we see that Christ knows the future.

- iv. Jesus knows everything. He knows everything there is to know about you. He knows your sins, your failures, your thoughts, your motives. He knows every good deed that you do. He knows your prayers. He knows your desires. He knows your goals. He knows your pain. He knows your problems and worries. He knows the solution to your problems. He knows your past. He knows your future. He knows what's best for you.

4. His perceptive insight.

- i. **John 2:23-25** "23 While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. 24 Jesus, however, would not entrust himself to them, since he knew them all 25 and because he did not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man."
- ii. A final reason we worship Jesus is that He sees what is in our hearts. No one knows what's in your heart. I can't see what's in yours. And you can't see inside mine. But God can. And Jesus can.
- iii. During the Passover festival Jesus performed many signs, and many people believed in Him. But He would not entrust Himself to them. He did not embrace these people as His followers. He knew that their belief was not the kind of belief that saves.
- iv. These people may have believed in Jesus as a miracle worker. As a prophet. As a holy man. As the Messiah who had come to deliver the Jews from the Romans. But they did not believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. And Jesus knew that.
 - 1. Verse 24 "Jesus, however, would not entrust himself to them, since he knew them all."
 - 2. Verse 25 "for he himself knew what was in man."
- v. This shows us that there is such a thing as False faith. There are people believe in Jesus but are not saved. They believe in Jesus but are on their way to hell. There are three kinds of False faith:
 - 1. The faith that believes in Jesus, but trusts in good works. You can tell by asking, "Why should God let you into heaven?" If the answer is about works, then their faith is in works and not in Jesus. Christianity is about "Done," not "Do." It's not about what we can "Do" for Jesus. It is the recognition that we are sinners, deserving hell, and we cannot "Do" anything to save ourselves. Therefore, we put our faith in what Christ has "Done" for us on the cross.
 - 2. The faith that believes in Jesus, but refuses to follow Jesus in obedience. These are people that claim to believe all the right things about Jesus, but they aren't striving to be obedient to His commands. People who like Jesus, but don't love Him. Fans of Jesus, but not

followers of Jesus. **1 John 2:3** “This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands.”

3. The faith that believes in Jesus, but not the Jesus of Scripture. These are people like the Jews who believe that Jesus was just a good moral teacher; or like the Muslims who believe that Jesus was just a prophet; or like the Mormons who believe that Jesus is not co-eternal and co-equal with the Father, but is just the first spirit child of God and God’s heavenly wife; or like the Jehovah’s Witnesses who believe that Jesus is not God, but only Michael the Archangel; or like those who believe that Jesus condones sinful behavior, like homosexuality; or like those who claim that Jesus is not the way to heaven, but only a way to heaven.
- vi. To be saved we must have genuine faith.
 1. We must trust in Christ and not in good works.
 2. We must follow Christ as Lord of our lives.
 3. We must believe what Scripture teaches about Jesus, and not the lies of man.
- vii. And Jesus knows our hearts. This is why we worship Him.

IV. CONCLUSION

1. As we close, take a moment to examine your heart. Is your faith in Christ genuine? Is your faith in Christ true faith, or false faith?
 - i. Are you trusting in good works?
 - ii. Are you living in sin?
 - iii. Are you believing lies about Jesus?