



BIBLE STUDY

September 15, 2026

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Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. - 2 Timothy 2:15

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Theme & Theme Verse

“Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of John: That You May Believe”

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. – John 20:31

JOHN 2

Lesson Subject: THE OMNISCIENT CHRIST AND THE NATURE OF GENUINE FAITH

Scripture: John 2:23-25

Lesson Aim

The aim of this lesson is to examine the nature and depth of faith found in John 2:23–25. We will consider the response of those who believed because of Jesus’ signs, His evaluation of that response, and what His knowledge of the human heart reveals about His divine identity.

Guiding Question

Throughout our study of John 2, we are going to keep asking:

WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT JESUS?

I. A FAITH AWAKENED BY SIGNS (vs.23)

A. The Evidential Value of the Signs

- There is a connection between the evidence they witnessed and the conclusion they reached.
- Biblical faith does not require us to see everything before we trust God.
- Faith responds by trusting what God has revealed and taking Him at His Word, even when we cannot yet see how His promise will be fulfilled.

B. Knowing, Agreeing, and Trusting

- The Nature of Faith
 1. Notitia - knowing the truth
 2. Assensus - agreeing that it is true
 3. Fiducia - personally trusting the One whom that truth reveals
- Saving faith is more than agreement with religious facts. It includes personal trust and submission to the one those truths reveal.

C. The Limits of Miraculous Evidence

- A miracle can confront a person with truth, but it cannot force that person to receive the truth.
- We can want His provision without receiving His instruction.

D. Believed in His Name

- Their response looked like faith outwardly, but Jesus knew its depth inwardly.

II. A FAITH JESUS WOULD NOT ENTRUST HIMSELF TO (vs.24)

A. The Pisteuō–Pisteuō Contrast

- “Believed” - They believed (*Pisteuō*) in Jesus. But Jesus did not entrust (*Pisteuō*) Himself to them. This is the difference between their response to Jesus and Jesus’ evaluation of their response.

B. Jesus Evaluates More Than an Initial Response

- Genuine discipleship is not measured only by how faith begins, but also by whether that faith continues in the Word of Christ.

C. Outward Response Is Not the Final Measure of Faith

- Jesus alone can accurately assess the true character of human faith.

D. Jesus' Evaluation Does Not Depend on Appearances

- Jesus knew what stood behind their response.

III. A CHRIST WHO KNOWS THE HUMAN HEART (vv.24–25)

- Jesus possesses a knowledge that reaches beneath outward behavior. He sees the inner person.

A. He Needed No Testimony About Man

- We need witnesses to know Jesus. Jesus needs no witness to know us.

B. The Old Testament Background

- John connects I Samuel 16:7, I Kings 8:39, and Jeremiah 17:10 to God's knowledge of humanity found in John 2:23-25, the same divine knowledge as being displayed in the Person of Jesus Christ.

C. The Omniscient Son

- Jesus is fully God and fully human. His discernment is not the product of observation. It is the expression of deity.

D. Jesus Knows What Lies Beneath Our Profession

- The same Christ who recognizes superficial profession also recognizes genuine faith.
- His complete knowledge of us is not a reason to pretend before Him. It is a reason to come honestly before Him.

IV. A BRIDGE TO JOHN 3

- Anthrōpos – Greek meaning for man or human being, appears in both statements: Jesus knows what is in man (2:25) and a man named Nicodemus (3:1)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between knowing something about Jesus, agreeing that it is true, and personally entrusting myself to Him?
2. Is there any area of my life where I am more interested in what Jesus can do for me than in submitting to who He is?
3. How does knowing that Jesus sees beyond outward appearances affect the way I examine my own motives?
4. Is there something God has already made clear to me that I am still resisting?
5. What might I be calling “faith,” “obedience,” or “devotion” that Jesus may be asking me to examine more honestly?
6. Does the fact that Jesus knows me completely make me want to hide from Him or draw closer to Him? Why?
7. If Jesus knows me better than I know myself, what area of my life do I need to trust Him to direct?
8. After studying John 2, what have I learned about Jesus that should deepen my trust in Him?

Personal Prayer

Lord, help me to know You as You truly are. Because You know me better than I know myself, show me what You see in me. Reveal where my faith is genuine, where my motives need correction, and where You are calling me to trust You more completely.

WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT JESUS?

John 2 Passage	What Happens	What Does This Reveal About Jesus?
John 2:1–11 Wedding at Cana	Jesus turns water into wine and manifests His glory.	Jesus reveals His glory. He exercises creative power, meets human need, and begins revealing through signs who He truly is.
John 2:13–17 Cleansing the Temple	Jesus drives out those misusing the temple courts and declares concern for His Father’s house.	Jesus demonstrates His authority. He has the right to confront corrupt worship and to act with divine authority in His Father’s house.
John 2:18–22 “Destroy This Temple”	Jesus identifies His body as the temple and points ahead to His resurrection.	Jesus points to His death and resurrection. His body becomes the true meeting place between God and humanity, and His resurrection will vindicate His identity and authority.
John 2:23–25 Belief in Jerusalem	Many believe because of His signs, but Jesus does not entrust Himself to them because He knows what is within humanity.	Jesus knows the human heart. He possesses divine knowledge and can distinguish outward profession from inward reality.

John is steadily answering one central question:

WHO IS JESUS?

JOHN 2 — THE ENTIRE CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

Passage	Scene	Central Truth	Response to Jesus	Major Theological Emphasis
2:1–2	Jesus attends a wedding at Cana	Jesus enters ordinary human life and fellowship.	Jesus and His disciples are welcomed.	Incarnation: The eternal Son participates fully in human life.
2:3–5	The wine runs out	Human need meets divine timing.	Mary directs the servants: “Do whatever He tells you.”	Divine Sovereignty: Jesus acts according to His own divine mission and timing.
2:6–10	Water becomes wine	Jesus transforms purification water into abundant, superior wine.	The servants obey; the master of the feast is amazed.	Transformation and Fulfillment: Jesus brings something greater than the old order could provide.
2:11	John interprets the miracle	The sign manifests Jesus’ glory.	His disciples believe in Him.	Revelation: The sign points beyond itself to Christ’s identity.
2:12	Jesus goes to Capernaum	A brief transition in Jesus’ ministry.	His family and disciples accompany Him.	Movement of the Mission: Jesus continues toward the next stage of His public ministry.
2:13–17	Jesus cleanses the temple	Jesus confronts worship that has lost its proper focus.	The disciples later remember Scripture.	Divine Authority and Holy Zeal: Jesus acts with authority over His Father’s house.
2:18–20	Leaders demand a sign	The religious authorities challenge Jesus’ right to act.	They misunderstand His statement about the temple.	Spiritual Misunderstanding: People interpret Jesus on an earthly level while He speaks of a deeper reality.

Passage	Scene	Central Truth	Response to Jesus	Major Theological Emphasis
2:21–22	Jesus speaks of the temple of His body	His death and resurrection will become the ultimate sign.	After the resurrection, the disciples remember and believe Scripture and Jesus' word.	Christ as the True Temple: Access to God will center in the Person and work of Christ.
2:23	Many see Jesus' signs in Jerusalem	Signs produce a measure of belief.	Many believe in His name.	The Nature of Faith: Evidence can awaken belief, but the quality of that belief must still be examined.
2:24–25	Jesus evaluates their response	Jesus knows every person and what is within them.	Jesus does not entrust Himself to the crowd's response.	Christ's Omniscience: Jesus possesses divine knowledge of the human heart.

JOHN 2 IN ONE VIEW

John 2 begins with Jesus at a **wedding** and moves to Jesus in the **temple**.

At the wedding, He reveals what He can **provide**.

At the temple, He reveals the authority He **possesses**.

Through the sign at Cana, He reveals His **glory**.

Through the cleansing of the temple, He reveals His **holiness and authority**.

Through the statement about His body, He points toward His **death and resurrection**.

And in the closing verses, He reveals that He **knows the human heart**.

John 2 is also a chapter about **response**.

The servants **obey**.

The disciples **believe**.

The religious leaders **question**.

The Jerusalem crowds **respond to the signs**.

And Jesus knows the true condition behind every response.

John 2 leaves us with two questions:

What has John revealed to me about Jesus?

How will I respond to the Jesus who has been revealed?

The chapter does not simply invite us to admire Jesus.

It calls us to **believe Him, trust Him, obey Him, and entrust ourselves to Him**.