



Family Devotions

2012 – Week 8

Passage of the Week

This week's memory verse:

^{NIV} **1 Peter 1:24** For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Jesus Clears the Temple

^{NIV} **John 2:12** After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."¹⁸ Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."²⁰ The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.²⁵ He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.

Monday

The Passover (2:13)

The Jewish Passover was the most important Jewish festival. Thousands gathered every year in Jerusalem to celebrate the Exodus. The Exodus was God's deliverance of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. When was the last time you stopped and celebrated your spiritual deliverance?

Tuesday

The Temple (2:14)

The temple was the center of Jewish life. It was different from our churches in many ways. The temple was a place to sacrifice animals and to pray. The priests were the leaders of the temple who ensured that the sacrifices and offerings were made according to the OT law. We no longer need the temple because Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice. He was so great that after He died there was no longer any need for another sacrifice. He has paid for all our sins- past, present and future. Are you thankful that we don't have to go to the temple? How is going to the temple different than going to church? (Remember they had synagogues where they read the Law and Prophets each Saturday).

Wednesday

Anger (2:15-17)

It's not that often in the Gospels we see Jesus get angry. What is it that made Jesus angry? Was His anger because they were not focused on Him and His desires or about the fact that they were offending His Father? Why did they call the temple "God's house"? Do you ever get upset when people don't respect God?

Thursday

Authority (2:18-20)

The Jewish leaders wanted to know what gave Jesus the authority to tell people what to do in the temple area where they were the leaders. If Jesus was from God He should be able to prove it with a miraculous sign. But Jesus told them to tear the temple down and He would build it in three days. They thought He was crazy because it had taken 46 years for them to build it. We now know Jesus wasn't crazy, He was talking about His death and resurrection. Do you think there are other things in the Bible we don't understand that one day will make more sense to us? If they knew who Jesus was do you think they would have put Him over the temple? Are there areas in our lives and society where we should be letting Jesus lead that we refuse to give up our authority?

Friday

Miracles (2:21-23)

Jesus did other miracles while He was in Jerusalem and this helped others believe. Why do you think some people got to see Jesus miracles and others didn't? What could God do that would help you to believe in Him more? Do you believe regardless of your circumstances and what you believe?

Saturday

Jesus Knows us (2:24-25)

People like us can't see inside others hearts. Only God knows what is in someone's heart. He didn't trust others because He knew how fickle people are and that at the cross everyone would desert Him. God still knows our hearts. Is there any reason He shouldn't trust us?

Sunday

Read and discuss the text for today.

^{NIV} **John 3:1** Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³ In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." ⁴ "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" ⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven-- the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." (John 3:1-21)