



**SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe**

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**Monday, September 19, 2022**

**Scripture: John 2:23-25**

**TITLE: No Fooling Jesus**

What's the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian? It's faith. It's not that one has faith and one does not. It comes down to the object of one's faith. It's the difference between a real fan and a bandwagon fan. The real fan sticks with their team no matter the season. The bandwagon goes where the entertainment is.

Jesus knows the difference between the real Christian and the notional or non-believer. How does he tell?

Let's turn back to John 2:23-25 for the answers.

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

As a reminder from last week, in chapter two, we find Jesus cleansing the temple. He finds the exploitation of people in the name of religion. He throws them out because it has defiled the temple. We also saw Jesus stump the Jews by providing a puzzle related to His death, burial, and resurrection. And now here, He is still in Jerusalem for the Passover and feast of unleavened bread.

He was doing more miracles. He was displaying His power and identity. It says they were believing, but according to verse 24, Jesus did not entrust himself to them because He knew all people. What does that mean? It simply means that Jesus saw their awe and wonder. But He could see their heart. He knew that their belief was superficial and temporary. So though they were impressed with the show, He knew they were notional followers. As He taught and spoke and said, "Follow me," they would walk away.

Think about what happened with the calling of Nathanael in chapter 1. Jesus knew Nathanael's heart. He was a true seeker. He would follow Him. Not so with many of Jesus' disciples.

Many people forget or don't know that Jesus had more than 12 disciples. He likely had hundreds of people who sat under His teaching and followed Him...for a time. But like any sports fan knows, there are those who are the real fans and those who are not.

Faith is more than intellectual assent or putting "Christian" on your social media profile. Genuine saving faith goes far beyond that. It demands a wholehearted commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Here in chapter two, we see the process of salvation. Like the cleansing of the temple, we see God's hatred for sin and the need for cleansing. We see the need and power of death and new life. Then we see that saving faith comes through whole belief in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

So here's my challenge for you today: Evaluate your faith. There is no fooling Jesus. He knows your heart. Have you rested on your past participation in church, your family tradition, or your religious activity to save you? If so, you've missed the grace God offers. Jesus Christ came not to impress us with His miracles or become a genie in a bottle. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He came to transform us from death to life. So today, evaluate your heart. Do you believe?

John wrote this Gospel "so you might believe." Do you?