



Calvary of Albuquerque

Uncommitted! - John 2:23-25

From the Series, Believe:879

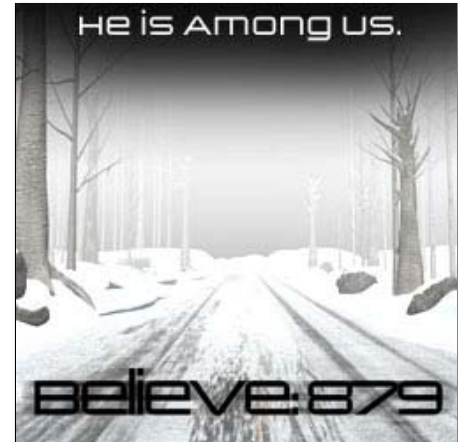
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MESSAGE SUMMARY

These three verses are some of the most unusual in the New Testament. They describe a scene in the life of Jesus that explains His popularity and fame. The response of people to the miracles of Jesus is understandable. What is not readily understandable is Jesus' response to the interested and excited crowd. Though they believed in Him, He was not too energized over their kind of faith. Understanding this will help us to understand Jesus and His mission.

OUTLINE

- I. The Unmistakable Clues (vs. 23)
 - A. Miraculous Signs Done
 - B. Mentioned without Detail
- II. The Under-Committed Crowd (vs. 23)
 - A. The Beginning of their Belief
 - B. The Basis of their Belief
- III. The Uncommitted Christ (vv. 24-25)
 - A. His Reluctance
 - B. His Reasons



For Home Fellowships:

1. How can seeing a miracle help us? How could it hurt us? What makes the difference
2. How does it feel for you to relate to the God who knows everything about you?
3. Look up Romans 3:10-12. How does this fit into the truths of John 2?

DETAILED NOTES

These three verses are some of the most unusual in the New Testament. They describe a scene in the life of Jesus that explains His popularity and fame. The response of people to the miracles of Jesus is understandable. What is not readily understandable is Jesus' response to the interested and excited crowd. Though they believed in Him, He was not too energized over their kind of faith. Understanding this will help to understand Jesus and His mission.

Knowledge is supreme. Imagine being around someone who knows everything; what you think, your motives. When Jesus healed the paralytic, He knew the thoughts of those surrounding Him. Our text is the summation of what happened that week.

Each portion of chapter 2 includes a statement of faith. When Jesus turned water to wine at Cana, the disciples believed in Him. When Jesus cleansed the temple the disciples believed the scripture. Now, the crowds will believe.

John's point here is that Jesus is omniscient. He knows the soul and motivation of men and women.

- I. The Unmistakable Clues (v. 23)
 - A. Miraculous Signs Done
 1. 17 times John uses the term signs (semeion)
 2. 37 miracles recorded in the gospels
 3. People's response to miracles
 - a. over naturalize them, call everyday occurrences miracles
 - b. explain them away as primitive interpretations
 - c. hyping miracles, cheapening the idea of what they are
 4. Webster defines as extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs.
 5. Skip defines as divine work wrought with divine power for a divine purpose.
 6. God is not a prisoner to His own laws. He can supercede natural law and enact another law. Like when humans overcome gravity with thrust and lift.
 7. Why Jesus performed miracles
 - a. loves people
 - b. prove who he is.
 - B. Mentioned without Detail
 1. We know he performed many miracles during this week
 - a. lots of publicity
 - b. Nicodemus referred to them John 3:1
- II. The Under-Committed Crowd (v. 23)

They had asked for a sign, Jesus didn't do one, then He goes out and does a lot of them. He uses the signs to get their attention.

A. The Beginning of their Belief

1. Belief doesn't necessarily mean committed faith. James 2
 - a. demonic faith
 - b. dead faith
 - c. dynamic faith
2. Believed in His Name - they accepted Him on their own terms. They were "unsaved believers" (Warren Wiersbe) .
3. Belief in Him (Jn 8:30,31, Acts 8)
4. Movement in John from the light of popularity to the darkness of rejection.

B. The Basis of their Belief

1. The people want signs not a savior
2. Signs are never enough
3. Faith must be based on who He is, not what He does
4. There's a difference between knowing who someone is and knowing them personally

III. The Uncommitted Christ (vv. 24-25)

How Jesus responds to nominal Christianity. In this passage, commit and believe are the same Greek word. "They believed in Him, but He didn't believe in them."

- a. His Reluctance They had "stony ground faith" Matthew 13
- b. His Reasons - Jesus is omniscient, he knew all men. No one with artificial faith can get away with it. Hebrews 4:13

Since Jesus knows everything He knows the worst about you. He also knows the best about you. He knows what He will make out of you.

Figures Referenced: Celsus, Porphyry, Hume, Apollonius, Spinoza, William Barclay, Warren Wiersbe, Charles Spurgeon

Greek Terms: semeion (distinguishing mark, miracle, sign)

Cross References: Matthew 13, John 3:1, John 8:30,31, Acts 8:13, Hebrews 4:13, James 2