**Two Responses Which Expose the False Faith of Unbelievers (John 2:23-25)**

1. The Response of the People to Jesus’ Signs (v.23)
   1. The “Many” who “Believe” (cf. 4:39; 7:31; 8:30; 10:42; 12:42-43)
   2. The Appearance of Genuine Faith (“Believed in His name”; cf. 1:12)
   3. The Misplaced Faith in Signs
      1. The purpose of signs in John
         1. Signs are meant to stimulate faith and testify to Jesus’ identity (2:11; 5:36; 10:25; 20:31)
         2. Signs are insufficient in themselves to produce faith (12:37)
         3. Signs hold people accountable to believe and heighten the guilt of those who reject (12:37-38)
         4. Signs are not ends in themselves; they are meant to point beyond themselves to the glory of Christ, His person, and His work

“Miracles do indeed assist the children of God in arriving at the truth; but it does not amount to actual believing, when they admire the power of God so as merely to believe that it is true, but not to subject themselves wholly to it.” (Calvin)

“In [the signs] he exposes facet after facet of human need, showing at the same time human inadequacy and Jesus’ all-sufficiency.” (Morris)

* + 1. The condition of the “many”
       1. They are more preoccupied with the signs than the One the signs pointed to (4:45; 6:26)
       2. They do not reject him outright (cf. 2:18), but neither do they receive Him rightly (3:2).

*“The “many” never saw past the sign to the glory which Jesus manifested. Their response, though better than [rejection] is still short of what Jesus asked of them. The two positive portrayals of believing discussed above described those believing as children of God (1:12) and as beholding Jesus’ glory (2:11). Neither of those qualifiers is used here.” (Croteau)*

1. The Response of Jesus to the People’s Faith (vv.24-25)
   1. His Action – He Doesn’t Entrust Himself to Them (v.24a)
      1. He *doesn’t* give Himself to those who do *not* trust Him.
      2. He *does* give Himself fully to true believers (cf. 10:14-15)!
   2. His Reason – He Possesses Knowledge About All People (v.24b-25)
      1. His knowledge is comprehensive (v.24b)
      2. His knowledge penetrates into the depths of the human heart (v.25)
         1. He knows the heart of mankind in general (3:19)
         2. He knows in particular the depths of the heart of each person (3:1)
      3. Implications
         1. He manifests His glory as God (1 Kings 8:39; Ps. 7:9; Prov. 15:11; Jer. 17:10).
         2. He always responds correctly to those who come to Him (1:50; 2:18; 2:23; 5:42; 6:61, 64; 21:15-17).

*“His knowledge of men’s hearts is profound, and accounts in part for the diversity of his approaches to individuals in the Gospels.” (Carson)*

* + - 1. This truth ought to drive us to confession of sin (Jn. 3:20; 1 Jn. 1:9).
      2. This truth ought to motivate us to come often to Him depending on His substitutionary work for us on the cross (1 Jn. 2:1-2; 3:19-22; Jn. 6:37).
      3. This truth ought to give us confidence that He knows exactly what our souls need and will sovereignly keep us to the end (e.g. 1:42 w/ 21:15; 9:1-2; 11:4-5; 17:12, 17, 22, 26).