**Knowing People**

***23****Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.****24****But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people.****25****He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person. (John 2:23-25, ESV)*

 God knows us creatures – and for that reason, He invites us to know Him also.

 Greetings dear brothers and sisters as we continue to see the Word-become-flesh among His own created human beings. Jesus was the Word that became a Person. He came to His own people, mingled among them, and became just like them except for their sins. He taught, He performed miracles, He forgave them, He got angry, and He went through the complete human experience. However, since He knew what people were really like, He did not trust or put his faith in them. God knew man, and thus Jesus needed to come into the middle of that history. Therefore, our subject for today is the various consequences to God’s knowing us. Once again, God knows us as created beings – and for that reason, He invites us to know Him also. Let’s see what that invitation means for each of us.

 Although God knows us completely, yet His love for us does not diminish, even though He does not trust in our abilities. We have already talked about the fact that God is Almighty. He is beyond every created thing, and He is not affected or swayed by the evil deeds of man or their emotional/manipulative pleas for Him to change course or plans. There is no single factor or thing that can move Him if a human being tries to do so given their foolishness. And it is exactly for that reason (God’s Almighty nature) that Jesus was never dependent on people. For example, He knew that they had not understood Him when He had made a whip out of rope and cleansed the Temple. He knew that they would not understand His coming teachings. He knew that the Nicodemuses were few and the Judases many. That level of the knowledge of man was one of the Lord’s greatest qualities. The fact that He knew what was needed for people to be healed and yet, their level of fallenness and perdition, rendering them untrustworthy. Of course, this (state of untrustworthiness) was going to change for those that would cling to Christ and join His mission. A follower of Jesus (as we will see in the 3rd chapter of John), would be receiving an entirely new life, a rebirth which would change the believer into someone the Lord could rely on a little more.

 Jesus had said, “*Do not judge based on appearances, but judge with right judgment (John 7:24)*

 The Lord is absolutely just in His judgments. But today, there are various ideas and thoughts spoken about in our culture that are directly against this saying, and also against Christ’s example of knowing (accurately) what kind of people were around him (truly). We need to beware of and avoid those dangerous and antichristian ideas. Today, many have forgotten about the fact that God is inviting us to know Him, because He already knows us, and we are unreliable without (a relationship with) Him.

 Therefore, just as God knows us and invites us to know Him and receive a new birth, let us not only know God, but know man as the imperfect being that he is, just as He does.

 Dearly beloved, *there is no one human being that is completely just or reliable all the time. Jesus Christ is the only exception, and because of that he would not trust or believe in man, but rather, we as sinful and imperfect people are to trust and believe in Him.*

 Today, if you have not entrusted yourself to Him who knows you from the day you were born, approach Him and know Jesus Christ, His Lordship and Salvation, and begin to see the people of this world as He sees them. God knows that you are a sinner – but there is available for you a new birth through Jesus. That new birth gives you a new life, so that you may deal with people with both the Lord’s compassion but also with His prudence.

 Although God knows us completely, yet His love for us does not diminish, even though He does not trust in our abilities. God knows us creatures – it is time to know Him.

 The Lord Bless You All. Amen.