

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Finding God's Direction for Life



EXPERIENCING THE ABUNDANT LIFE: JOHN 2

“SEEKING SIGNS”

JOHN 2:18-22

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT AT THE TEMPLE WHEN OUR LORD OVERTURNED THE TABLES OF THE MONEY-CHANGERS AND OTHERS, WE SEE THE FIRST REAL CLASH WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN JESUS AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THE JEWISH NATION. SO FAR THEY HAVE BEEN PASSIVE, BUT NOW THEY BEGIN TO SPEAK. IN EFFECT, THEY ARE SAYING TO JESUS, “NOW, HERE YOU COME TO THE TEMPLE AND YOU DO NOT HESITATE TO TAKE UPON YOURSELF THE AUTHORITY TO DO WHAT YOU HAVE JUST DONE. YOU ARE CLAIMING TO BE THE LORD AND MASTER OF THE TEMPLE. NOW, IF YOU ARE MAKING SUCH A CLAIM, THEN WHAT SIGN DO YOU GIVE TO US TO PROVE THAT YOU ARE WHO YOU CLAIM TO BE?” THEY ARE ASKING FOR SOMETHING VERY STRIKING, SOMETHING VERY UNUSUAL.

THE LORD DOES NOT ANSWER THEM IN A DIRECT MANNER. INSTEAD HE SAYS, “DESTROY THIS TEMPLE, AND IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT UP.” THERE IS A HIDDEN MEANING HERE WHICH THEY MISS ALTOGETHER.

HOW IS THIS SIGNIFICANT FOR US? THE ANSWER IS THAT WE ARE TOLD HERE WHY IT IS THAT MANY PEOPLE ARE NEVER TRULY BLESSED BY THE LORD. WE NEED TO BE REMINDED THAT WE ARE CONCENTRATING ON THE GREAT THEME OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, SUMMED UP BY OUR LORD’S WORDS: “I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.”(10:10).

WHY IS IT THAT MANY PEOPLE NEVER KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FULNESS OF LIFE? HERE IN THIS INCIDENT WE ARE GIVEN A FURTHER ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.