

# THE BOOK OF JOHN

## Jesus Cleans Temples

John 2:12-25

John 2:12-13, "After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days. And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,"

### THE PASSOVER

- \* Celebrating God's death angel "Passing over" the houses of the Jews in Egypt.
- \* Jesus' family went to Jerusalem for the Passover every year. (Luke 2:41)
- \* John mentions all three Passover celebrations during the ministry of Jesus: John 1:13, John 6:4 (just after the feeding of the 5,000) and John 12:1 (just before Jesus death)
- \* By Jewish law every male within 15 miles of Jerusalem required to come to the city for the Passover. However far away, every Jew tried to be in Jerusalem for this celebration.
- \* During the Passover this city of 200 thousand sometimes swelled to 2.25 million.

Why is verse 12 here? It shows us: Jesus knew how to pace His life.

John 2:14, "And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:"

Jesus saw two things that caused him to become enraged:

- People selling animals
- People exchanging money

John 2:15-16, "And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise."

What caused this great anger in Jesus?

Deuteronomy 16:4, "And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days."

3 things to learn from Jesus' anger:

There are times when it is right to be angry. Some things demand a response.

Just because something is accepted by society does not mean it is acceptable to God.

It is more important to be spiritually correct than to be "politically correct."

We can't always be diplomatic about the truth.

Our understanding of God's lessons for us in this passage hinges upon one question: Where is the temple of God today?

Jesus "drove them out."

- He showed a divine refusal to put up with inward impurities.
- What does Jesus need to drive out of your life? Why not first invite Him in!
- God deals with us in patience, but will not put up with sin! Don't mistake His patience for acceptance.

## When did Jesus cleanse the temple, at the beginning of His ministry or at the end? Both!

Luke 19:45, "And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought;"

John 2:17-18, "And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?"

Malachi 3:1-3, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."

Notice here two very different reactions to the cleansing of the temple that are very similar to the reactions we have today.

- The Disciples: See the heart of Jesus
- The Pharisees: Challenged the authority of Jesus

2 questions growing Christians ask:

1. Why do we resist Him when He seeks to cleanse the temple of our lives?
2. How can we develop a "zeal" for God's temple today?

John 2:19-22, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."

Why is the temple so important?

- In the New Testament: Our bodies have become the temple of God.
- In the Old Testament: The temple represented the body of Jesus.

3 days... Jesus already knew the end of the story!

He didn't have to figure out God's will... He simply had to live out God's will.

"After the resurrection... they understood."

Sometimes it takes awhile to understand something that God has said to us!

One major reason for this: He is preparing us in advance for what is coming.

John 2:23-25, "Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."

Jesus understood crowds: the positives and negatives.

We learn from Him in a church that has a large "crowd."

Our purpose is not to "please" the crowd.

Our purpose is to lift up Christ in the crowd.

Because Jesus understood people, he would not entrust himself to people.

We learn to trust others while we entrust ourselves to God alone.