

JESUS CLEANSSES AND REPLACES THE TEMPLE

John 2:12-25

What makes you boil or seethe in angry passion? What eats you up? What made Jesus boiling mad was the dishonoring of God and dishonoring worship...

1.JESUS' PASSION: JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE – John 2:12-17

- Jesus is passionate about honoring God and honoring Him in worship. Jesus sees the court of the Gentiles in the Temple full of buying and selling of animals and money changers. He drives them all out of the courts of the Temple. Jesus as Messiah will be the purifier of God's worship and God's temple - Zechariah 14:21; Malachi 3:1-3.
- The disciples interpret the actions of Jesus by looking at Scripture. It stands written in Scripture that God's King is consumed with His house and proper worship - Psalm 69:9. *"My intense eagerness for the sanctity of the temple and purity of worship burns in Me like a fire."* – GNB.
- Jesus is not focused on HOW they are doing business, it is WHERE they are doing business. *"Jesus' complaint is not that they are guilty of sharp business practices, and should therefore reform their ethical life, but that they should not be in the Temple area at all. How dare you turn My Father's house into a market! He exclaims. Instead of solemn dignity and the murmur of prayer, there is the bellowing of cattle and the bleating of sheep. Instead of brokenness and contrition, holy adoration, and prolonged petition, there is noisy commerce. ...Jesus' demonstration is...an attack on the whole of the financial arrangements for the sacrificial system, and thus an enormous threat to the priestly authorities."* – D.A. Carson.
- Application: What does this mean for our zeal for God and our worship? Are we zealous for what honors God? Are we angry with what breaks God's heart? Sin should bother us – Psalm 119:136; Ezekiel 9:4; Acts 17:16. *"I could not live another day if Christ be not glorified"* – Henry Martyn.

2.JESUS PROMISE: JESUS REPLACES THE TEMPLE – John 2:18-22

- The scandalized Jewish authorities ask for a sign. Jesus claims if they destroy the temple, He will raise it in three days. But Jesus is referring to His body as the temple which will be "destroyed" on the cross, then raised three days later. Like so many in this gospel, they misunderstand Jesus – see John 3:8. It becomes a charge against Jesus – Mark 14:58,15:29.
- But the Temple itself points forward to a better and ultimate meeting place between God and man – John 1:51; 4:21-24. Jesus Himself is the ultimate meeting place with God! He is referring to His own physical body as the new and ultimate dwelling place of God – John 1:14; Colossians 2:9. Jesus promises He will raise His own body – John 10:18. We no longer go to a place to worship God, we go to and through a Person, Jesus Christ our Lord. *"Christ is the temple, the locus of the living presence of God in the midst of His people, and the rebuilding of the temple took place on the day of His resurrection...by raising Christ from the grave, God established His church. Christ is the temple, and all men are commanded to come to Him in order to worship and serve the one true God."* – R.C. Sproul, John.
- The disciples again later finally get it. They realize that the resurrection is a fulfillment of Scripture – Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:29-31. They believe the Scripture and the Word of Jesus.

- Application: Christ's resurrected body is in Heaven. We come only through Christ to God's throne and presence. But In and through Christ those who believe in Him are a living Temple where He now dwells in us – 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; Ephesians 2:21,22. Our individual bodies become a temple for the dwelling of Jesus in us – 1 Corinthians 6:19,20.

3.JESUS' PERCEPTION: JESUS KNOWS WHO WE ARE – John 2:23-25

- Warning: There is such a thing as false belief. Many others believed, but their faith was not real. It was shallow, fake, outward – John 6:15. They liked miracles. They seemingly “trusted Jesus but He did not entrust Himself to them.” They are like the fast-growing seeds in the Parable of the Sower – Mark 4:16,17.
- This passage should lead us to worship and honor Jesus. Jesus does what God alone does. He searches our hearts and constantly knows what is in us – Jeremiah 17:10; John 5:19. No one fools Jesus. Let us continually repent and rely on His power to live for Him – Psalm 139:23,24.

Concluding Applications:

- Are you really trusting in Jesus Christ, the only way to God?
- Does the dishonoring of God disturb and bother you?
- Is your own life honoring God as His temple on earth?
- Do you look at life from the perspective of the Bible?