

John 2:13-22: Jesus clears out the temple!

– Passover (Exodus 12/Deut. 16:1-6) “Feast of Freedom”:

An annual holy day set apart for the Israelites to observe the exodus from Egypt, particularly the passing over of the Israelite firstborn males when the firstborn of Egypt were struck down in the last of the ten plagues. In Christian tradition, the Passover is also associated with the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with His disciples and is considered a precursor to the Christian holiday of Easter.

Jewish men were required to attend three annual feasts: 1.) Passover, 2.) Pentecost, and 3.) Tabernacles.

The Passover was a reminder of God's grace in delivering the Jews from the bondage in Egypt.

(vs. 13): Jesus attends Passover as did all Jewish men:

- Passover occurred in Jerusalem.
- “up to Jerusalem”: It was on a mountain.

(vs' 14-17): Jesus shows righteous anger due to man's corruption and greed:

- Jesus found the temple a market place instead a place of prayer and worship.
- Buying and selling of animals was probably rationalized as a convenience for the pilgrims/sojourners coming into Jerusalem, but it corrupted the purpose of prayer and worship to God for His mercy and grace.
- Unblemished oxen, sheep, and doves (pigeons) were all used for sacrifices. Doves were sold to those who were poor and couldn't afford larger sacrificial animals.
- Other cross-reference verses: ****Matt. 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46****. Mark and Luke describe the selling as thievery.
- Jesus' righteous anger justified His actions. He made a whip of cords (Scripture doesn't record Him hitting anyone with it) which was a symbol of authority, and drove out all wickedness in the temple.
- Conviction sometimes requires action. Righteous anger is justified. ****Ephesians 4:26-27; Proverbs 16:32; 14:29****
- Disciples remembered **Psalm 69:9** (also **Malachi 3:1-3**). Jesus had a passion to keep worship to God pure. ****God is jealous and wants our relationship with Him number one in our lives and kept pure****.

1.) *What is the goal of sinful anger vs. the goal of righteous anger?*

2.) *Do we stand up for righteousness when the Holy Spirit convicts us to do so?*

3.) *Does our prayers and worship to God have pure motives and genuine love for Him?*

(vs' 18-21): Jews demanded miraculous proof from Jesus, but missed the point entirely:

- (vs. 18) Religious leaders were always looking to discredit/disprove who Jesus claimed to be. No amount of proof will soften the hardened heart of someone that doesn't trust in the Lord.
****Proverbs 3:5****
- "Sign": outward (visible) indication or a "miracle".

4.) *How much proof do you need to solidify your faith in Jesus and why?*

5.) *Is your need for proof of Jesus based on genuine submission and hope or is it based on sinful intentions?*

- (vs' 19-21) Jesus prophesied about His death (crucifixion) and resurrection (John 19 & 20) to the leaders, but because of their spiritual blindness, they didn't comprehend what He said. ****Matthew 15:14****
- They looked at Jesus as a threat to the status quo (Judaism) and mistook His answer as literal, instead of spiritual.
- The leaders were more concerned with how their physical appearance (Herod's temple) looked to God, rather than their spiritual state. ****Matthew 23:28****. **They focused more on their efforts to build the physical temple instead of WHY it was built and the relationship it symbolized.**
- The "Temple" Jesus refers to is His body. This temple (sanctuary) is where God resides. As believers, the Holy Spirit (our advocate) lives within us. ****1 Corinthians 3:16-17****
- **The Jews missed the mark as to why God occupied the physical temple. He ultimately wanted to occupy their hearts through a relationship. The only way to build a relationship with God is through Jesus!**

6.) *Do you care more about the status quo of the physical life, rather than the current state of your*

spiritual life?

7.) *Is your body/soul a temple where God lives life with you and has a relationship with you?*

(vs. 22): Speaks of the future fulfillment of Jesus' death and resurrection and solidified His disciples faith **John 12:16; Luke 24:8:**

- Jesus' disciples had enough faith (belief and trust) to follow Him when they were initially called. Their faith's strength and maturity were based on their journey with Jesus.

8.) *Has your journey with Jesus strengthened and matured your faith and if so, how?*