

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
The Lord of the Whip
John 2:12-25 (page 740)

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I am to be passionate in my worship of God
(John 2:12-17; Psalm 69:9)

- Israel had disobeyed God by:
 - failing to love God and love their neighbor
 - turning the temple into a place of idolatry rather than a place of passionate worship

I am to embrace the center of true worship
(John 2:18-22; Malachi 3:1-3)

I am to pursue genuine faith (John 2:23-25; Matthew 6:21)

- Genuine faith is:
 - more than faith in knowledge
 - more than faith in miracles
 - personal faith in Jesus Christ

Going Deeper....

What are some ways that Jesus Himself fulfills the reality of the Temple? Explain. _____

What do you allow to enter your “temple”? Does it enhance God’s dwelling place - or does it defile and desecrate?

If it is the latter...should we expect a cleansing visit from Christ? *Why* or *why not*? _____

What was the most significant thing you learned from this study?

This week ask Jesus to help you take seriously His mission to transform your life into His kingdom priority. _____

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 2:12-25 (Week Six)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

This week, we find Jesus in Jerusalem for the first Passover since He has begun His public ministry. And where does He immediately go but to the Temple - the house of His Father. Following Jesus begins with the issues of purification from sin and the offering of authentic worship. As He cleanses the temple of the idolatrous priests and moneychangers, He reveals how far Judaism has moved from worship of God into sinful unbelief. He is seen as confronting this apostasy and opposition and to reveal that a whole new way to God has appeared and He is the temple and as God, He has the authority to bring in a whole new order of relating to God. His resurrection will be the proof that vindicates His authority.

Discussion Questions:

What was the most significant thing that you learned from the passage? *Why* was it significant to you?

In **John 2:15-16**, Jesus responds to those defiling the temple. *Why* did Jesus respond this way? *What* can we learn about how we are to respond to those who are acting in a similar way? Explain.

What kind of anger is wrong? *What* kind of anger is right?
What does **Ephesians 4:26** teach us about this issue?

In this passage, Jesus addressed the sin that He saw in the temple. When you see immoral or unethical behavior, are you more likely to address it or ignore it? *Why*? *How* can we gracefully confront someone who is exhibiting such behavior?

Why was selling in the *Court of the Gentiles* so offensive to Jesus? *What* does **Mark 11:17 and Luke 15** teach us about Jesus' attitude toward saving those who don't know Him?

What are some ways that the church today cultivates a consumer rather than a worshipful attitude in God's people? *What* are some examples?

What are some ways that Jesus Himself fulfills the reality of the Temple? Explain.

Taking it to the streets....

What do you allow to enter your "temple"? Does it enhance God's dwelling place - or does it defile and desecrate?

If it is the latter....should we expect a cleansing visit from Christ? *Why* or *why not*?

How does being preoccupied with Christ keep us rightly focused? Explain. (i.e. we don't need signs and wonders, etc)

This week ask Jesus to help you take seriously His mission to transform your life attitudes into His kingdom priority.