

# CLEANING HOUSE

John 2:13-25



## SYNOPSIS

John continues fulfilling the purpose of his book: to make a case for belief in Jesus the Messiah. (20:31) Though Jesus's cleansing of the Temple happened toward the end of his ministry, John writes about it here, remembering that "after he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken." (2:22)

Even at age 12, Jesus knew that the Temple was his Father's house. (Luke 12:48-50) In the Bedikat Chametz search that happens before the Jewish holiday of Pesach (Passover), it was right for a son to make sure that his father's house was free of yeast/leaven. (Ex 12:14-16) Jesus was rightly angered at how his Father's house had been turned into a place of corrupted worship and discrimination.



## OUTLINE

1

### CLEANSING THE TEMPLE FROM THE YEAST OF CORRUPTED WORSHIP

Because the journey to Jerusalem was dangerous, Jerusalem merchants offered sacrificial animals for sale. (Hence the presence of shepherds near Bethlehem.) The raising and sale of animals became a corrupt business - e.g. price gouging, selling blemished animals, transaction fees.

In the OT, God judged Israel's leaders who did not lead the people into righteous worship. (Mal 1:6-8) But God has never been interested in half-hearted worship. Worship is about God, not about us. Considering the weightiness of presenting ourselves before the Maker of the Universe, what is our attitude when we come to worship on Sunday?

- Are our hearts reconciled to our family/friends?
- Do we make sure to get good sleep the night before?
- Do we prepare our hearts?
- If our bodies are living sacrifices (Rom 12:1), are they "unblemished"?

2

### CLEANSING THE TEMPLE FROM THE YEAST OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE GENTILES

the corrupt business of selling animals was happening in the Court of the Gentiles, creating unreasonable distractions for worship. Israel knew their Messiah would be consumed with zeal for the Temple (John quotes Ps 69:9). They just expected that zeal to cleanse the Temple of gentiles, not to be angered by discrimination against gentiles.

John highlights Jesus being misunderstood when he talked about the destruction of the Temple (2:18-22). Jesus referred to himself as the new Temple and said that his death would "destroy" the current Temple, i.e. completely fulfill the sacrificial system (Rev 21:22-23).

Have we asked Jesus to cleanse us? (Ps 51:7, 10-12)



kairos  
church

?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Have you ever engaged in corrupted worship? If not, how do you prepare for worship? If yes, what are some examples?

2

Despite what we know about God, why do you think we provide him with lip service, i.e. corrupted worship?

3

What would it look like to present our bodies as "unblemished" living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God? (Rom 12:1)

4

What would it look like for you/Kairos to be "zealous" about inclusion in the church?

5

In what ways do we need Jesus to cleanse us (as temples of the Holy Spirit)? (1 Cor 16:19-20)



## BIG IDEA

Jesus was zealous for his Father's house to be cleansed of all corrupted worship and discrimination, and rightly so. He knew that he was the new Temple. We are temples too (individually and corporately), and need cleansing.

