

**Passover House Cleaning**  
**4G: John, the Maverick Gospel (Message 6)**  
**John 2:12-24**

Introduction:

Capernaum, on the western shore of the Seas of Galilee, as in one of the most prosperous and crowded districts of Palestine. On the great highway from Damascus and Tyre. It becomes Jesus' center of operation, his own town. He taught frequently in the synagogue (John 6:59; Mark 1:21; Luke 4:33) which had been financed by a Roman centurion (Luke 7:5) and did multiple miracles here. (Mt. 4:13-16; Luke 4:16-31, Mt. 8:5, 14, 15; Mt. 9:2-6, 10-17; Mt. 15:1-20; Mark 1:32-43)

His mother and disciples join him here for a few days (2:12). Waiting for Passover in Jerusalem (2:13).

Jesus had been to Jerusalem many times for the Passover.

*Deuteronomy 16:16 (NIV) Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed:*

Men within 15 miles of Jerusalem were required to come annually, but Jews from all over the world came. They never forgot their ancestral faith. To celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem at least once in your life was on everyone's bucket list. 2.5 million celebrants.

**I. Why the forceful action?**

**A. Two physical prompts in the Court of the Gentiles**

Both prompts occurred in the Court of the Gentiles. Temple a series of courts leading to Temple proper and Holy Place: Sequentially, Court of Gentiles, Court of Women, Court of Israelites, Court of Priests.

**Prompt 1: Money changing in the Court of the Gentiles**

There was a legitimate cost, a temple tax, to provide for the Temple sacrifices and rituals. The per person cost was about 2 days wages. Coinage commonly used in the times: Greece, Rome, Egypt, Tyre, Sidon.

Depending on the rate of exchange, sometimes exorbitant, the total could approach 3 days wages. When Crassus captured Jerusalem and raided the Temple treasury in 54BC, he took around \$5M without coming near to exhausting it.

## Prompt 2: Animals in the Court of the Gentiles

A great marketing convenience.  
However, overcharging common.  
Merchandizing closed Temple access to all non-Jewish people.

### Two reasons for the action:

**Closed access.** Merchandizing closed access to the Temple to anyone but a Jew as it took place in the Court of the Gentiles.

Temple had been built to provide access for Gentiles.

### **Jesus' jealousy for God.**

Zeal includes jealousy.

Psalm 69:9 "*Zeal for your house will consume me.*" Remembered then or later (see v.22)?

Jesus progressively grieved over the years? Held his peace until his time had come. Time has come.

### Response to Jesus anger

What credentials? What right to act in this way? By asking for his credentials they acknowledged two things.

#### 1. They didn't think he was crazy.

- a. You don't ask crazy person for credentials.
- b. Something about Jesus made his actions right, legitimate. Is he Messiah? It was always expected that when the Messiah came he would confirm his claims by doing amazing things. Messiah connected with wonders. Miracles done (v.23).
- c. (Possible video here.)

#### 2. Cleaning the Temple was the right thing to do.

- a. Commerce had previously taken place across Kidron Valley on side of Mt. of Olives.
- b. Jesus not only one aware of dishonor to God's Temple.
  - i. Dishonors holiness of God ("*How dare you turn my Father's house into a market?*" [v. 16]).

- ii. Their commerce in the Court of the Gentiles dishonored God's intent for the nations. Roman Centurion who built the synagogue in Jesus' adopted city of Capernaum (Luke 7:5), where Jesus frequently taught, barred from worship at Temple by the bellowing of cattle, the clatter of moneychangers and the bleating of sheep. Who else?

## Takeaways

### 1. Jesus is consumed with God's agenda. **Am I?**

- a. **Zeal**: *His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me" (John 2:17).*
- b. **Integrity**:
- c. **Access**: Racial. Cultural. Economic. Multicultural.

### 2. Jesus has more to show me than I've understood.

- a. John 2:18-22 (NIV) *Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 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.*
- b. Resurrection. Power of God, Lordship of Christ.

### 3. Jesus stays on mission.

- a. **Right action for the right time.**
  - i. Today the temple is to provide access. Tomorrow the Temple will pass (John 4).
  - ii. Today Jesus is to prophesy about the coming change. Tomorrow Jesus is to pay the price for the change.
- b. **Jesus does not trust the response of the leaders, his disciples, or the crowds. Jesus trusts Jesus. Do I?**

- i. The leaders: asked for a sign having missed the sign he gave (clearing the temple).
- ii. His disciples: didn't understand until after resurrection (v.21).
- iii. The crowds: John 2:23-25 (NIV) *Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.*
- iv. Jesus is able to trust God's own work in his own life because of his connection with God (John 5:16, 19-20, 30, 36-37). Can I?