

Passover House Cleaning

4G: John, the Maverick Gospel (Message 6)

John 2:12-24

The temple was the beating heart of Judaism. It was the center of worship and music, of politics and society, of national celebration and mourning. It was the place where Israel's god had promised to live in the midst of his people. What do Jesus' words and actions tell us about what the temple had become?

The sellers and moneychangers were set up to provide sacrificial animals for sale at the temple as a help to Jews from far away. How might this once useful practice have deteriorated into a racket?

Why else was Jesus angry? See psalm 69:9

How might you have responded if you had been a Jew worshipping in the temple on that day?

As one of the sellers, how would you feel about Jesus' actions? As one of the disciples, how would you feel?

How is Jesus challenged in verse 18? Why?

What does his response have on them?

Jesus cleansed the temple because so many of God's people have forgotten that the temple was to be a place of prayer and worship. Can you identify an area in your life that needs to be cleansed and once again made into a place that honors God?

Does 2:13-17 have any warnings about Christian priorities? Imagine if Jesus came and visited your family. What do you think he would say?

Do you think of Jesus as interested more in love and joy or more in justice and holiness? How does this passage relate to how you answered?

Although this was not a miracle, it was a sign in the sense that it was an active parable of Jesus mission and it showed Jesus literally eliminating the old sacrificial system by cleaning the temple. Do you think it was necessary for Jesus to clean the temple? Could he have just let it go? Why or why not?