

Signs of the Messiah: The True Temple

(John 2:13-25)

The Feast (v. 13-17)

- Shortly after the wedding in Cana (2:1-11), Jesus travels with His disciples to Jerusalem to participate in the Passover
 - Passover: The Jewish feast remembering God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt (see Ex. 12)
- Jews from all around the ancient world returned to Jerusalem to worship & to give the Temple tax
 - The merchants' stands were to provide sacrifices for those who had to travel
 - The money-changers stands were to exchange different currencies for the silver half-drachma required to be given by all Jewish males 20 years and older
- Jesus' issue was not with the tables' existence, it was with their placement
 - Rather than in the Kidron Valley away from the Temple, they had been placed in the Court of the Gentiles
 - The place of worship for the nations had been turned into a marketplace
- John points out the OT connection with Jesus' actions & words (Ps 69:9)
 - These are King David's words concerning his enemies
 - Something that Jesus emulates as the promised Davidic King/Messiah

The Sign (v. 18-22)

- The response by the Jewish leadership is disbelief that Jesus would have the audacity to commit such an act
 - Jesus is fairly unknown at this point
- So, they ask for a sign of His authority to do such a thing
 - They don't seem to be concerned with whether justice or right worship, just power
- Jesus offers them the sign of the Temple itself
 - He says that if *they* destroy it, *He* can raise it in 3 days
- The Jews see this claim as preposterous, since the 2nd Temple took 46 years to complete
- Jesus offers a cryptic foretelling of His death & resurrection which points to His role as the replacement of the Temple itself
 - It is not necessarily a miracle in the moment, but rather points toward the ultimate display of His glory
- He later explains this more plainly (John 4:23-24)
 - And it isn't until much later that His disciples realize it

Signs & Faith (v. 23-25)

- John states that Jesus was performing other signs while at the Feast, but doesn't specify what they are (John 20:30)
 - Some of which are recorded in the Synoptics
- These signs caused some to put their trust in Jesus
 - Because that's what signs are meant to do (John 20:31)
- But Jesus did not fully entrust people with who He was yet
 - In part due to misconceptions about what the Messiah was supposed to do

So What?

- Jesus, as the true representation of God, offers us the ability to worship in Spirit and truth
 - We can come to the Father through Him wherever we are
- Have we come to the true Temple?
 - Do we worship in Spirit and in truth?

Meditation Verse: *John 4:23-24*