

The Gospel of John: The True Temple

John 2:12-25

The First Passover Journey (v. 12-13)

- After the wedding feast (2:1-11), Jesus, His family, and His disciples travel to Capernaum
 - This becomes the base for His Galilean ministry
- Jesus & His disciples then travel to Jerusalem for the Passover
- Passover: Jewish feast remembering God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt through the 10th plague
 - God commanded the Israelites to mark their homes with the blood of a lamb to signify them as His people
 - The angel of the Lord *passed over* them but brought judgment upon the Egyptians
- John records 3 Passovers (2:13; 6:4; 11:55)
 - They mark the beginning & end of Jesus' public ministry in John's Gospel

The Temple Cleansing (v. 14-17)

- Jesus finds the Temple courts full of livestock & money-changing tables
 - God had allowed for the buying of animals, grain, and wine for sacrifices & tithes (Dt 14:22-26)
 - There was also an annual Temple Tax that had to be of high-quality silver which money-changers provided (Mt 17:24-27)
 - The issue was not the practice, it was their location
 - They used to be set up across the Kidron Valley, outside of town
 - Now, they were set up in the Outer Courts
 - The only place where the Gentiles were allowed to worship
- Jesus makes a whip out of rope and drives them out
 - He was angry because they had:
 - Disrupted worship of His Father
 - Disallowed Gentiles a place to worship
- His disciples later connected this event to Ps 69:8-9
 - A Davidic psalm that shows the animosity that he faced because of his desire for pure worship

The Second Sign (v. 18-22)

- The Jewish leadership asks Jesus what gives Him the authority to act as He has
 - They are not concerned about whether it was just
 - His action is questioning their authority as those who allowed the practice in the first place
 - They ask for a sign, a demonstration of power
- The sign He offers is cryptic
 - Destroy "this Temple" & He will rebuild it in 3 days
 - They think He means the building
 - Jesus points them to the truth that He did not come to simply cleanse the Temple; He came to replace it
 - Something that the disciples did not understand until after His resurrection

Trusting Jesus (v. 23-25)

- Jesus begins public sign working, resulting in many claiming to trust Him
 - But He did not entrust Himself to them because He truly knew them

- Later, He will show how He knows those who are His own and promises to entrust Himself to those who truly trust him (10:14-15)

So What?

- Do we approach God through the true Temple of Jesus?
- Have we truly trusted Him to be our means of access to the Father?

Mediation Verse: John 2:19
Next Week's Scripture: John 3:1-21